The making of "Made in Newark"

Newark's geographic advantages and natural resources made it a logical place for industry to grow. Its location at a bend in the Passaic River gave access to New York harbor, the Atlantic Ocean, the rest of the Americas and beyond. Nearby sources of water, stone and lumber gave it distinct advantages in leather production, quarrying and furniture making. Turnpike, canal and railroad construction meant other raw materials were better able to reach Newark, and Newark-made goods to reach other markets by road, rail and sea.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

Until completion of a plank road across the Newark Meadows, the Passaic River served as the town's only outlet to the east.

Newark, (East of Mulberry St. 1820–5), detail. NPL Special Collections.

Entrepreneurs took advantage of better roads and innovations in carriage making to provide faster and more dependable travel in and out of Newark. Thomas Thompson, a Black stagecoach operator, ran two stages daily between Newark and New York.

The Sentinel of Freedom (Newark, N.J.), 22 July 1817.

NEW LINE.

Accommodation.

THE subscriber feeling grateful for past favors, informs his friends and the public in general, that he has for their better accommodation, changed his route to and from N. York. He has started two STAGES for N. YORK, by way of HOBOKEN.

No. 1, will leave Newark every morning of the week (Sunday's excepted) from Mr. S. Hoff's; call at Mr. C. Smail's Jersey Tavern, and at his own dwelling house in Rank St. at 6 o'clock. No. 2, will start at 3 o'clock, and call at the above mentioned places for Passengers; pass the Ferry at Hoboken, and deliver Passengers in New-York, at FIFTY CENTS each—FREE OF FERRIAGE, crossing the river.

Returning, No. 1 will leave New-York at 5 o'clock; call at Mr. Skidmore's in Washington St. and Mr. S. Lyon's corner of Greenwich and Cortlandt Streets, for Passengers, and deliver them in Newark at the price above quoted. No. 2, will leave New-York at 4 o'clock, call at the above places, and deliver Passengers on the same terms.

N. B. No charge whatever will be made for Bundles or Bags, entrusted to the subscriber in passing the Ferry, to or from New-York.

THOMAS THOMPSON.

Newark, July 16, 1817. 3m—

This 1812 map by engraver Peter Maverick makes clear the connections of the small village of Newark, by way of turnpikes into the hinterland west and south, and by bridges, roads and ferries east, to the wharves and seaport of New York.

Map of the country thirty miles round the city of New York, detail. David Rumsey Historical Map Collection.

The New Jersey Rail Road, seen here crossing the Passaic River, connected Newark to the country's two largest cities, New York and Philadelphia.

E. Whitefield, *View of Newark, N. J., from the north,* 1847, detail. NPL Special Collections.

In the middle of the main intersection of Broad and Market Streets, a pump recalls the water sources that made Newark an early center of leather making.

Broad Street looking south from Market Street, ca. 1830s.

Built to transport Pennsylvania coal to the cities of the east, the Morris Canal reached the Passaic River at Newark in 1831, giving new impetus to the city's industrial growth. Factories sprang up along its route, notably at the Hedenberg Works between Plane Street (now University Avenue) and High Street (now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard).

Unidentified artist, *Inclined Plane No. 12 East on the Morris Canal.*

MORRIS AND ESSEX RAIL ROAD.

TRANSPORTATION

To and from New York and Morristown and Intermediate places.

THE public are respectfully informed that the Morris & Essex Rail Road Co. having under the provisions of their charter, contracted with Messrs. Stephens, Condit & Co. of Newark, to forward all produce and merchandize, &c. to and from the cities of New York and Newark, are now prepared to transport Produce, Merchandize and Manufactured articles (Powder, Vitriol and Aquafortis excepted) to and from New York and Morristown and intermediate places.

Produce, Merchandize, &c. will be received and delivered at the following places, viz:

New York, on board Stephens, Condit & Co's. line of Packets, White Hall.

Morristown, at the Depot.

Madison.

Chatham.

Summit.

Millville.

Orange.

Newark, Depot at the termination of the Road, foot of Centre street.

At all of which places, a tariff of rates for transportation may be seen.

All goods &c. will be considered at the risk of the owner after arrival at the several places of destination, and must be taken in charge immediately on their arrival, either by the consignee or owner.

All charges for transportation must be paid on receipt or delivery of the goods &c. m1 \$2-3w

Passenger service by rail arrived in Newark in 1835, and freight service soon followed. Railroads fed the city's industry and carried its finished goods all over the country. They also opened up the surrounding countryside to suburban development, allowing those who were better-off to commute by train to and from their city jobs.

Newark (N.J.) Daily Advertiser, 23 March 1838.

The bucolic scenes known to early settlers became a distant memory in the nineteenth century, as large mills and factories crowded both banks of the Passaic River.

View on the Passaic River at Newark, from *Industries of New Jersey, Essex County, including City of Newark, the Oranges, Montclair, Bloomfield, and Belleville* (Historical Publishing Company, 1882), 68.

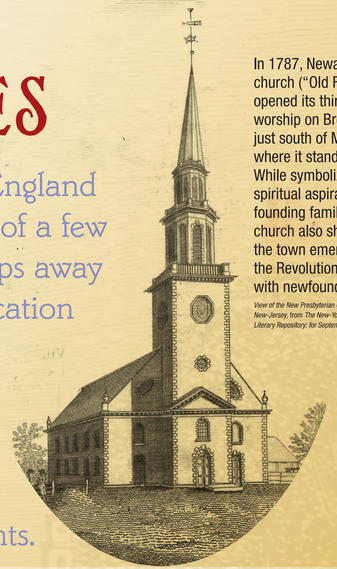
MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

From Farms to Factories

For more than a century after its founding by pious New England Puritans in 1666, Newark remained mostly a quiet village of a few thousand people. Farmers' fields and orchards lay just steps away from the intersection of Broad and Market Streets. Communication with larger population centers was sporadic at best.

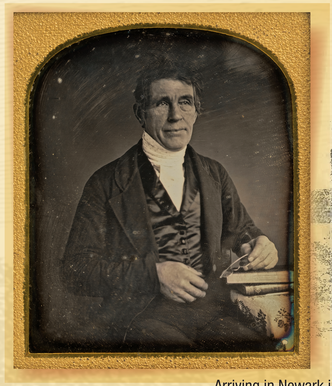
New financial and transportation networks, however, brought a rapid influx of capital, population and talent. The ingenuity of Seth Boyden, a newcomer from Massachusetts, soon propelled industry in new directions and to unimagined heights.

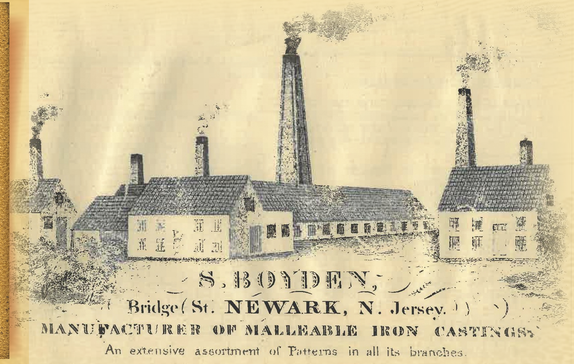
Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.



In 1787, Newark's first church ("Old First") opened its third house of worship on Broad Street just south of Market, where it stands today. While symbolizing the spiritual aspirations of the founding families, the new church also showed how the town emerged from the Revolutionary War with newfound prosperity.

View of the New Presbyterian Church in Newark, New-Jersey, from *The New-York Magazine; or, Literary Repository: for September, 1792.*





Arriving in Newark in 1815, inventor Seth Boyden transformed the town's industrial activity, devising new machines and techniques for the manufacture of leather goods, iron and brass products, steam engines, locomotives and even early photography.

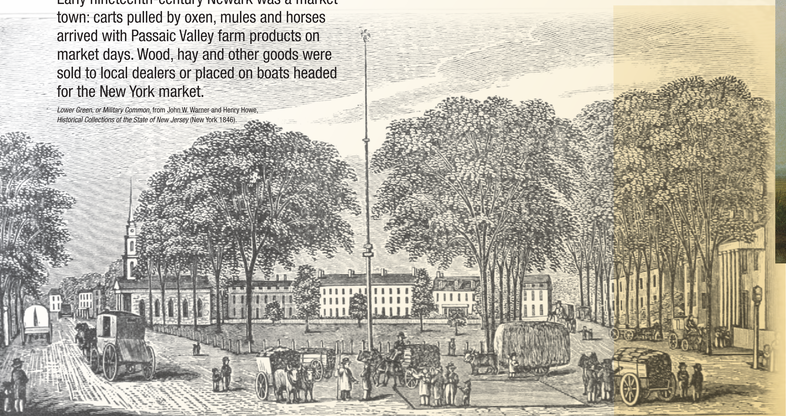
[Portrait] Daguerreotype, ca. 1849. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. [Foundry] *Journal of the Franklin Institute* 148:2 (August 1899), 143.

Engraver Peter Maverick produced this patriotic advertisement for one of Newark's leading hat makers, whose shop faced Trinity Church on Broad Street. On the left of the engraving stands an indigenous trapper, holding a beaver whose pelt provided the raw material for hats. On the right, a hatter lifts up the finished product.

Maverick Family Collection of Engravings. NPL Special Collections.

Early manufacturers, like the chair maker in this advertisement, offered hand-produced articles for local buyers. As Newark industries started to outgrow their local market, they used the port of New York to gain access to consumers elsewhere in the country.

The Sentinel of Freedom (Newark, N.J.), 17 April 1804.



Early nineteenth-century Newark was a market town: carts pulled by oxen, mules and horses arrived with Passaic Valley farm products on market days. Wood, hay and other goods were sold to local dealers or placed on boats headed for the New York market.

Lower Green, or Military Common, from John W. Warner and Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey* (New York 1846).

This image of haystacks in the New Jersey Meadows recalls the harvesting of salt hay in the once extensive wetlands of the lower Passaic and Hackensack estuaries. Salt hay was a staple food for the draft animals that, well into the nineteenth century, moved goods and people overland.

Martin Johnson Heade, *Jersey Marshes* (1874). Oil on canvas. Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.

David Alling turned out chairs through the first half of the nineteenth century at his factory on Broad Street. Newark chairs were in high demand: a large part of Alling's output was shipped to major Southern ports like New Orleans and Mobile.

Unrecorded artist, *The House and Shop of David Alling*, Newark Museum of Art.

The first bank chartered in New Jersey was established in 1804 to serve Newark's commercial and industrial interests. It had its headquarters at the northwest corner of Bank and Broad Streets. The bank enabled Newark manufacturers to expand their operations, buy new machinery, hire more workers and do business with customers far beyond the town limits.

Newark Banking and Insurance Company. Blythe & Illig Collection, NPL.

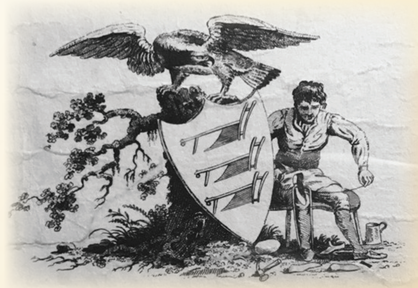
MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

A WORKSHOP FOR SLAVE OWNERS

"Newark," wrote sociologist Harry Emerson Wildes, "was a workshop for slaveowners; it shod the South, supplied it with saddles, bridles, whips and harness, built the carriages in which the gentry rode, wove cloth, made hats and ground flour for the use of Dixie."

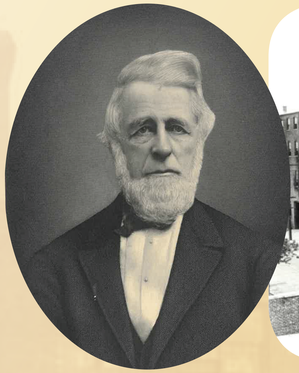
Newark leaders opposed the movement to limit or abolish slavery, fearing it would harm the city's important customer base in the South. In 1839, a meeting attended by prominent Newark politicians, industrialists and merchants resolved that "the subject of slavery appertains to the slave holding states alone … and that the meddling interference is uncalled for by any considerations of public justice or public policy."

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.



On what was probably the first printed map of the town, Charles Basham included this emblem of a cobbler at work to emphasize the importance of the shoe trade. The map text highlighted Newark's famous stone quarries, carriage and cider production, and of course shoemaking, in which it claimed a third of the inhabitants were "constantly employ'd."

A Map of the Town of New-Ark in the State of New-Jersey Published in 1806, detail.



James Moses Quinby apprenticed in carriage making at the Hedenberg Works, then opened his own carriage factory on Broad Street in 1834. Quinby's business dominated the city's carriage industry, and for a time had branches in Georgia and Alabama. Quinby was Newark's tenth mayor.

(Portrait) *New Jersey: A History: Biographical and Genealogical Records*, Vol. V (New York: American Historical Society, 1930).

The firm of J. M. Quinby & Co. converted from building carriages to fabricating automobile bodies. Its factory on Division Street was demolished in 1998 to make way for Newark's Riverfront Stadium.

On a tour of Newark in November 1833, former Speaker of the House Henry Clay was celebrated as a stalwart defender of American manufacturing against foreign competition. Clay was also presented with tokens of Newark industry: a saddle, a beaver hat, and this elaborate coach built by the factory of John Clark & Son. The coach survives to this day at Ashland, Clay's plantation near Lexington, Kentucky.

J. M. Quinby, who made a fortune in southern markets, won a seat in the New Jersey state senate in 1860 as a member of Abraham Lincoln's Republican party. Newspapers in North and South assailed him for what they considered a hypocritical stance toward slavery.

The Daily Sun (Columbus, Ga.), 3 December 1860.

An Item to be Remembered.

We see, by the Newark (N. J.) Advertiser, that J. M. Quinby, the great Southern carriage manufacturer, of that place, has accepted the nomination of State Senator on the black Republican ticket! In accepting it Mr. Q. said "he has been for many years interested in Southern trade, and was intimate with that section."

"Many of his best friends," he said, "were Southern men,', "but the Republican party was misrepresented, &c" Such were Mr. Quinby's excuses for accepting this nomination, and if he is satisfied with them, we are. But we will say that any man who gets his bread and butter by Southern business, by availing himself of the profits of "slave labor," and then joins himself to a party that denounces "slavery" as "an inhuman institution" and a crime, is either a fool or a hypocrite. There is not a mouthful of bread which this man eats, which he does not procure by "slave labor,' and without which he would be as poor as the poorest laborer he employs. Yet he joins the throng which wars upon this System of labor, and above all acknowledges, in effect, that he receives the wages of sin; and clutches it to his embrace! Truly Mr. Quinby is a consistent man! We should suppose his "best friends" at the South would "grow small by degrees, and beautifully less."—*N. Y. Day Book.*

Fine cider and shoes from Newark were highly prized by merchants in southern ports like Savannah, Georgia, where this ad appeared in 1807.

The Republican and Savannah (Ga.) *Evening Ledger*, 21 March 1807.

NEWARK CIDER AND SHOES.

Just received per brig LOVELY LASS,

30 barrels of double racked Newark CIDER, fit for bottling
500 pair Morocco flippers
1000 ditto leather ditto
200 do. mens fine shoes.

All of which are of the first quality, and will be sold low for cash only. ROBERTS & BRANT.

March 6....19.... *Tesfair's wharf.*

3,000

PAIRS Men's coarse SHOES, to answer the Southern market, wanted. Sizes from 10 to 13 inches long. Also, a quantity of men's lined and bound grain Shoes, for which a liberal price will be paid in Goods, at cash price, at the subscribers Dry-Good and Grocery Store.

DAVID C. BALDWIN.

Springfield, July 22. 60-3w.

David C. Baldwin, a Newark merchant, dealt in large shipments of shoes to the South. He also owned and edited a short-lived newspaper, the *Republican Herald.*

The Sentinel of Freedom (Newark, N.J.), 30 July 1805.

FOR SALE,

2000 pair NEGRO SHOES,

Received per the brig Washington, from New-York, made in Newark New-Jersey, of good leather and superior workmanship.

ON HAND,

An assortment of SHOES of all kinds, and Baldwin's Philadelphia BOOTS, equal to English.

ALSO,

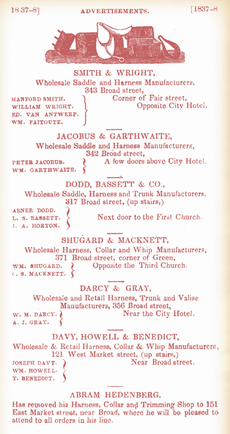
A few thousand bushels of good clean CORN, and twelve hundred bushels COW PEASE, low for cash.

John Egleston.

September 12. 3

An 1805 Charleston newspaper advertised a recent delivery of shoes from Newark, "of good leather and superior workmanship," destined for enslaved people.

City Gazette (Charleston, S.C.), 20 September 1805.



1837-8] ADVERTISEMENTS. [1837-8

SMITH & WRIGHT,
Wholesale Saddle and Harness Manufacturers,
343 Broad street,
HANFORD SMITH, WILLIAM WRIGHT, ED. VAN ANTWERP, WM. TAITOUTE. } Corner of Fair street, Opposite City Hotel.

JACOBUS & GARTHWAITE,
Wholesale Saddle and Harness Manufacturers,
342 Broad street,
PETER JACOBUS. WM. GARTHWAITE. } A few doors above City Hotel.

DODD, BASSETT & CO.,
Wholesale Saddle, Harness and Trunk Manufacturers,
317 Broad street, (up stairs,)
ASHER DODD, L. S. BASSETT, J. A. HORTON. } Next door to the First Church.

SHUGARD & MACKNETT,
Wholesale Harness, Collar and Whip Manufacturers,
371 Broad street, corner of Green,
WM. SHUGARD, C. S. MACKNETT. } Opposite the Third Church.

DARCY & GRAY,
Wholesale and Retail Harness, Trunk and Valise Manufacturers, 356 Broad street,
W. M. DARCY, A. J. GRAY. } Near the City Hotel.

DAVY, HOWELL & BENEDICT,
Wholesale & Retail Harness, Collar & Whip Manufacturers,
121 West Market street, (up stairs,)
JOSEPH DAVY, WM. HOWELL, Y. BENEDICT. } Near Broad street.

ABRAM HEDENBERG,
Has removed his Harness, Collar and Trimming Shop to 151 East Market street, near Broad, where he will be pleased to attend to all orders in his line.

Some of the saddle and harness makers active in Newark in the 1830s.

B. T. Pierson, *Directory of the city of Newark, for 1837–8, with an historical sketch* (Newark, 1837).

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

BODIES ON THE LINE

The giant mills and forges of nineteenth-century Newark came to dominate the city, both in real life and in the imagination. The toil of the common laborer that kept factories running, whose long hours of poorly paid, often dangerous work fueled the city's success, was generally overlooked, and frequently exploited.

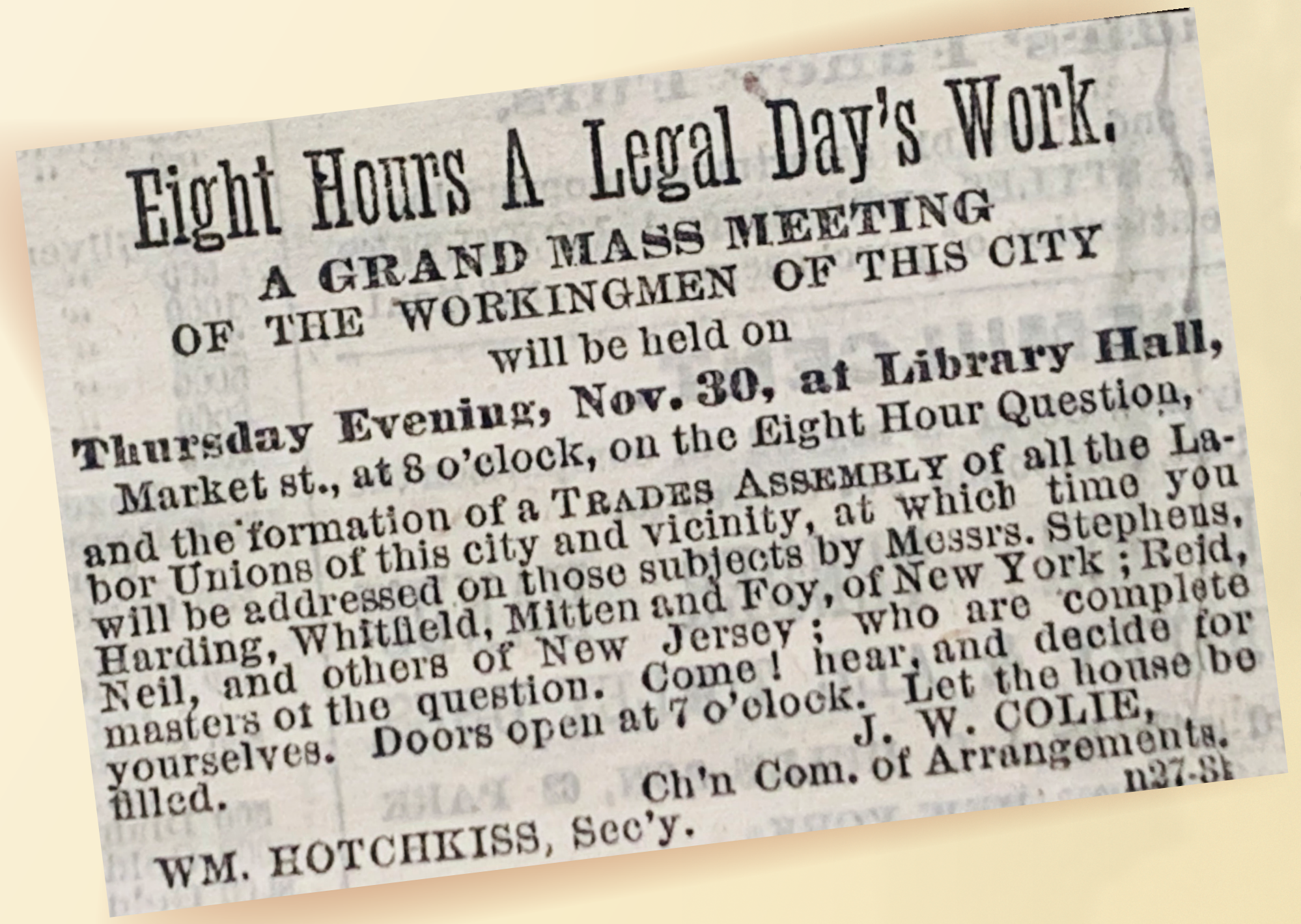
The 1830s saw the beginnings of labor organizing in Newark, when "journeymen and mechanics" in the leather and shoe trades united to press for a living wage. But such efforts were thwarted by resistance from employers, and by periodic recessions that severely cut into workers' modest gains.

Battles for the rights and dignity of Newark's working people have always been long fought and hard won.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

Wheel makers pose proudly in the factory of Phineas Jones and Company. One of the first firms to produce carriage wheels by mechanical methods, Phineas Jones had a shop on Market Street, just west of today's Penn Station.

As textile and clothing manufacturing moved from homes to factories, this segment of the economy still drew large numbers of female workers. Women and girls usually worked under male supervision, as in this early image of the Clark Thread Company, and for much lower pay than their adult male counterparts.



Eight Hours A Legal Day's Work.

A GRAND MASS MEETING
OF THE WORKINGMEN OF THIS CITY
will be held on
Thursday Evening, Nov. 30, at Library Hall,

Market st., at 8 o'clock, on the Eight Hour Question, and the formation of a TRADES ASSEMBLY of all the Labor Unions of this city and vicinity, at which time you will be addressed on those subjects by Messrs. Stephens, Harding, Whitfield, Mitten and Foy, of New York; Reid, Neil, and others of New Jersey; who are complete masters of the question. Come! hear, and decide for yourselves. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Let the house be filled.

J. W. COLIE,
Ch'n Com. of Arrangements.

WM. HOTCHKISS, Sec'y.

n27-3t

With the end of the Civil War, workers began to agitate for a reduction in the standard ten-hour day. This mass meeting in 1865 drew more than twenty organized groups and hundreds of individual laborers, but the eight-hour movement failed to win over most of Newark's industrialists, and government regulation of working hours was still decades in the future.

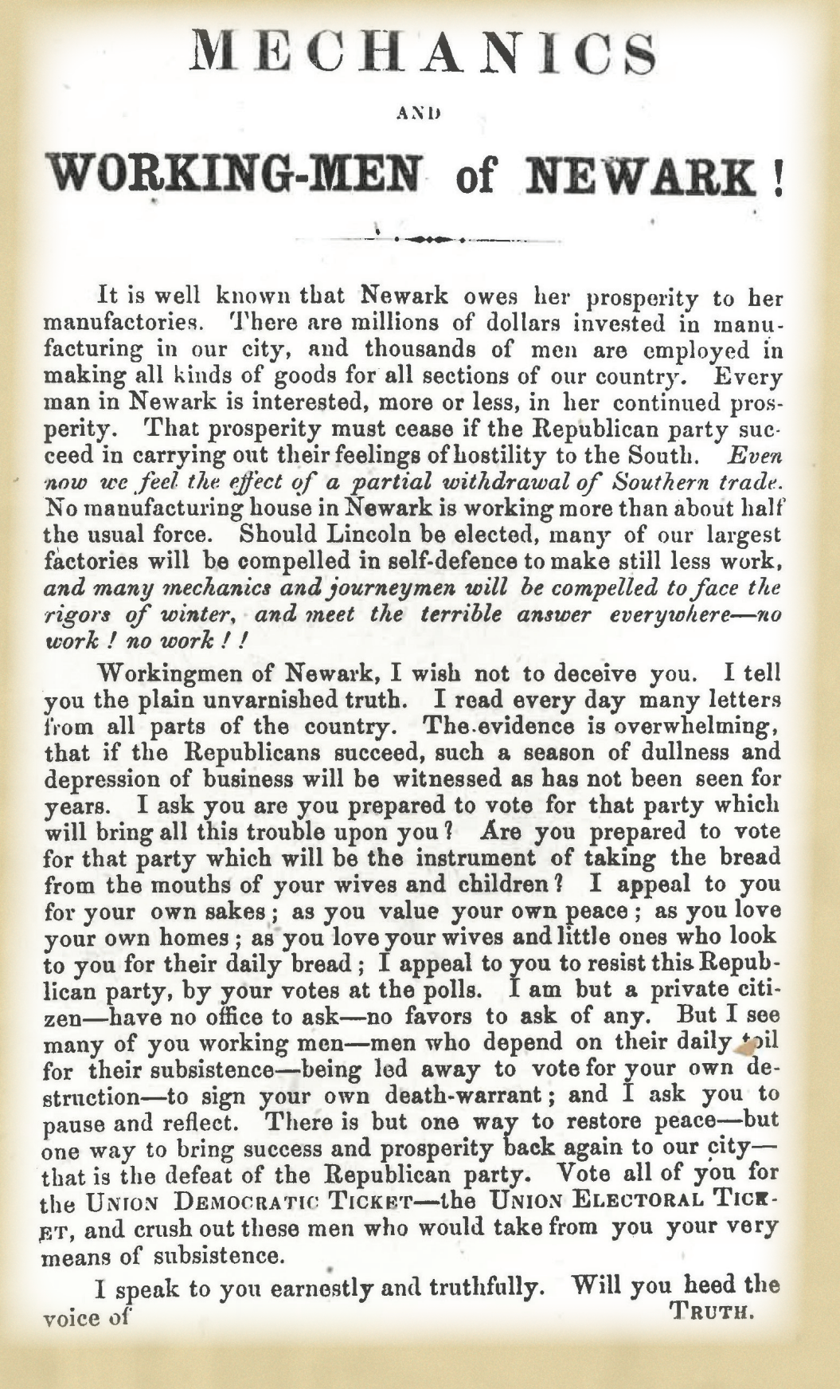
Newark (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser*, 28 November 1865.

This etching by a New Jersey artist shows foundry workers pouring liquid metal into a mold. The contrast of light and dark seems to exalt their labor to something almost divine, in which they assist at the birth of a new creation.

George A. Bradshaw, *The Foundry*. NPL Special Collections.

The prospect of Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 struck terror into the hearts of many industrialists: a break with the pro-slavery South would cut Newark off from its most important market. This broadside tried to instill fear of joblessness in the city's labor force, but already, as its author stated, many workers were "being led away to vote for [their] own destruction."

Anti-Republican Broadside, 1860.



MECHANICS
AND
WORKING-MEN of NEWARK!

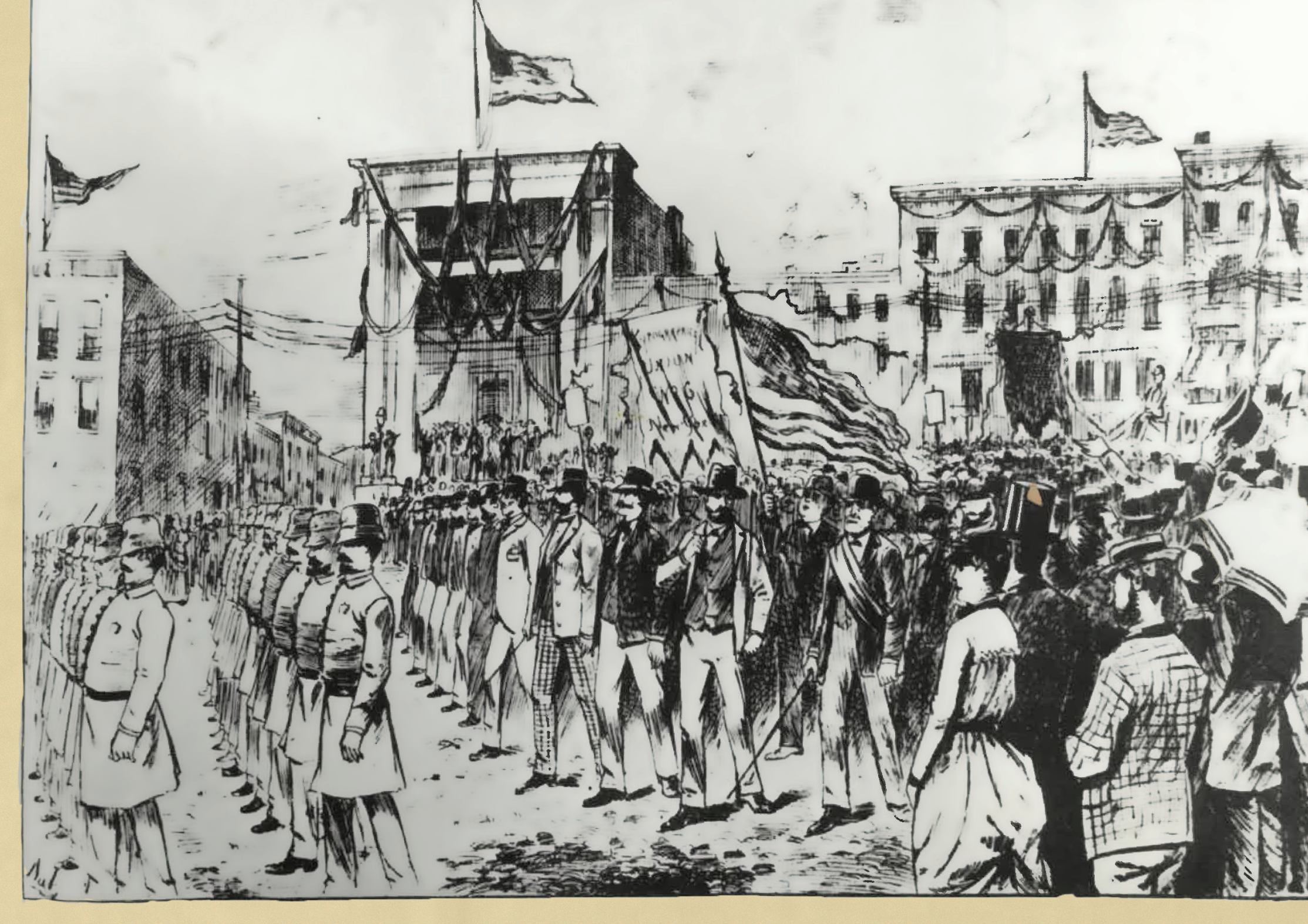
It is well known that Newark owes her prosperity to her manufactories. There are millions of dollars invested in manufacturing in our city, and thousands of men are employed in making all kinds of goods for all sections of our country. Every man in Newark is interested, more or less, in her continued prosperity. That prosperity must cease if the Republican party succeed in carrying out their feelings of hostility to the South. *Even now we feel the effect of a partial withdrawal of Southern trade.* No manufacturing house in Newark is working more than about half the usual force. Should Lincoln be elected, many of our largest factories will be compelled in self-defence to make still less work, *and many mechanics and journeymen will be compelled to face the rigors of winter, and meet the terrible answer everywhere—no work! no work!!*

Workingmen of Newark, I wish not to deceive you. I tell you the plain unvarnished truth. I read every day many letters from all parts of the country. The evidence is overwhelming, that if the Republicans succeed, such a season of dullness and depression of business will be witnessed as has not been seen for years. I ask you are you prepared to vote for that party which will bring all this trouble upon you? Are you prepared to vote for that party which will be the instrument of taking the bread from the mouths of your wives and children? I appeal to you for your own sakes; as you value your own peace; as you love your own homes; as you love your wives and little ones who look to you for their daily bread; I appeal to you to resist this Republican party, by your votes at the polls. I am but a private citizen—have no office to ask—no favors to ask of any. But I see many of you working men—men who depend on their daily toil for their subsistence—being led away to vote for your own destruction—to sign your own death-warrant; and I ask you to pause and reflect. There is but one way to restore peace—but one way to bring success and prosperity back again to our city—that is the defeat of the Republican party. Vote all of you for the UNION DEMOCRATIC TICKET—the UNION ELECTORAL TICKET, and crush out these men who would take from you your very means of subsistence.

I speak to you earnestly and truthfully. Will you heed the voice of TRUTH.

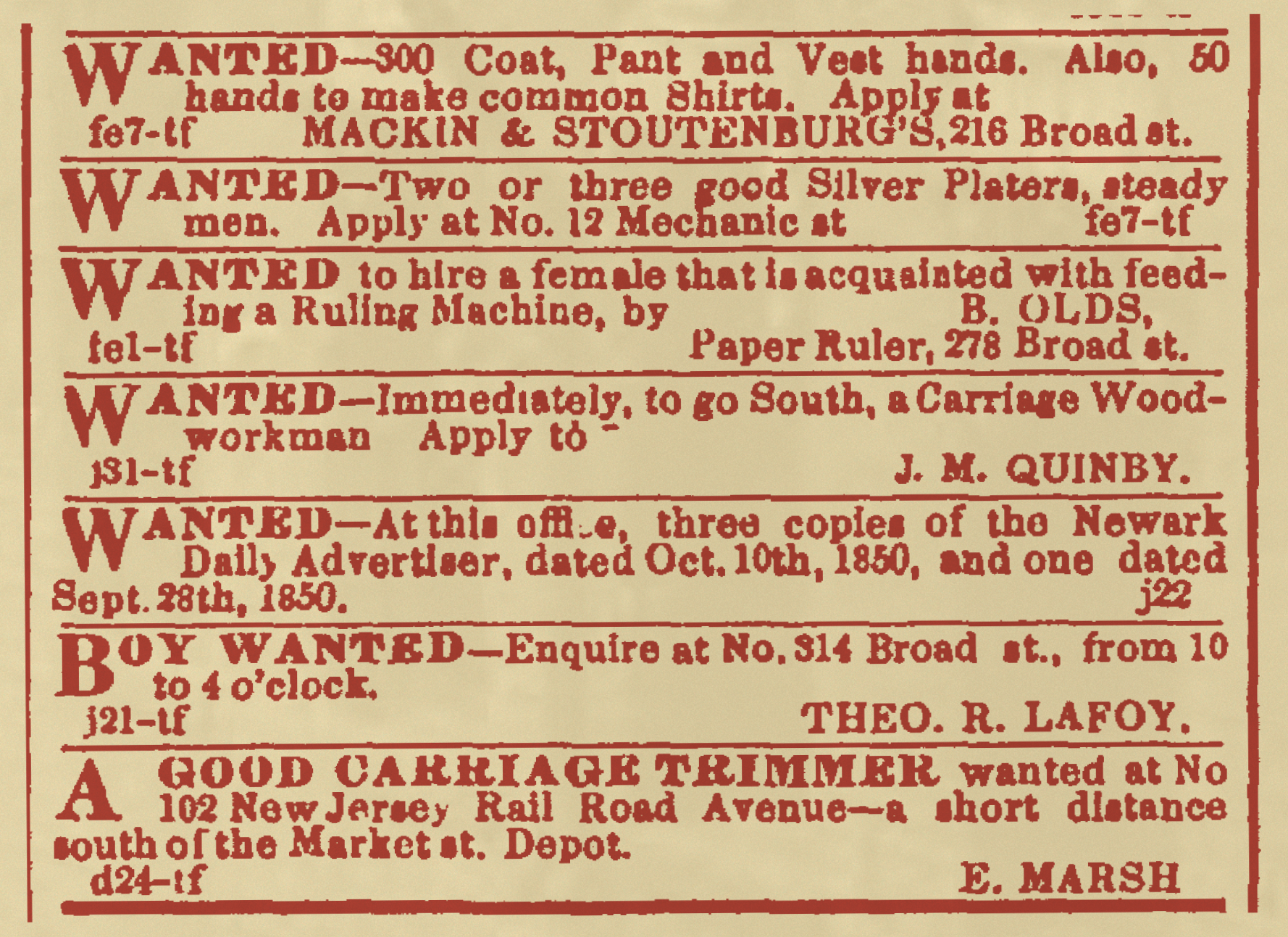
Mechanization, while it made Newark industries more efficient, led to a decline in the number of factory jobs and, ultimately, the closing of factories. Judging from their dress, some of the employees in this crowd leaving the Celluloid Company on Ferry Street worked in offices and not in the plant.

Barnett's Foundry in the Ironbound began operations in 1845, one of scores of malleable iron producers. By the time of this group photograph, the plant had expanded into hardware and machinery, and filled an entire block of Hamilton Street between Bruen and McWhorter. Notice the men seated in the first row with shovels, and boys sitting on the ground.



Significant protections for workers' rights only started to appear in the final decades of the nineteenth century. Leon Abbett, who reviewed this parade in Newark in 1885, had a strong labor following; as New Jersey governor, he saw to the enactment of much pro-labor legislation.

The great labor parade in Newark on Monday. New York (N.Y.) *Daily Graphic*, 29 July 1885.



WANTED—300 Coat, Pant and Vest hands. Also, 50 hands to make common Shirts. Apply at
fe7-tf MACKIN & STOUTENBURG'S, 216 Broad st.

WANTED—Two or three good Silver Platers, steady men. Apply at No. 12 Mechanic st fe7-tf

WANTED to hire a female that is acquainted with feeding a Ruling Machine, by
B. OLDS,
fe1-tf Paper Ruler, 278 Broad st.

WANTED—Immediately, to go South, a Carriage Woodworkman Apply to
j31-tf J. M. QUINBY.

WANTED—At this office, three copies of the Newark Daily Advertiser, dated Oct. 10th, 1850, and one dated Sept. 28th, 1850. j22

BOY WANTED—Enquire at No. 314 Broad st., from 10 to 4 o'clock.
j21-tf THEO. R. LAFOY.

A GOOD CARRIAGE TRIMMER wanted at No 102 New Jersey Rail Road Avenue—a short distance south of the Market st. Depot.
d24-tf E. MARSH

Newark newspapers advertised a variety of industrial jobs. On one day in 1851, the *Daily Advertiser* listed 350 open positions for garment workers at a factory on Broad Street. Other employers sought "two or three good Silver Platers, steady men"; a woman "acquainted with feeding a ruling machine"; and a skilled woodworker to join Newark industrialist J. M. Quinby's operations in the South.

Newark (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser*, 19 February 1851.

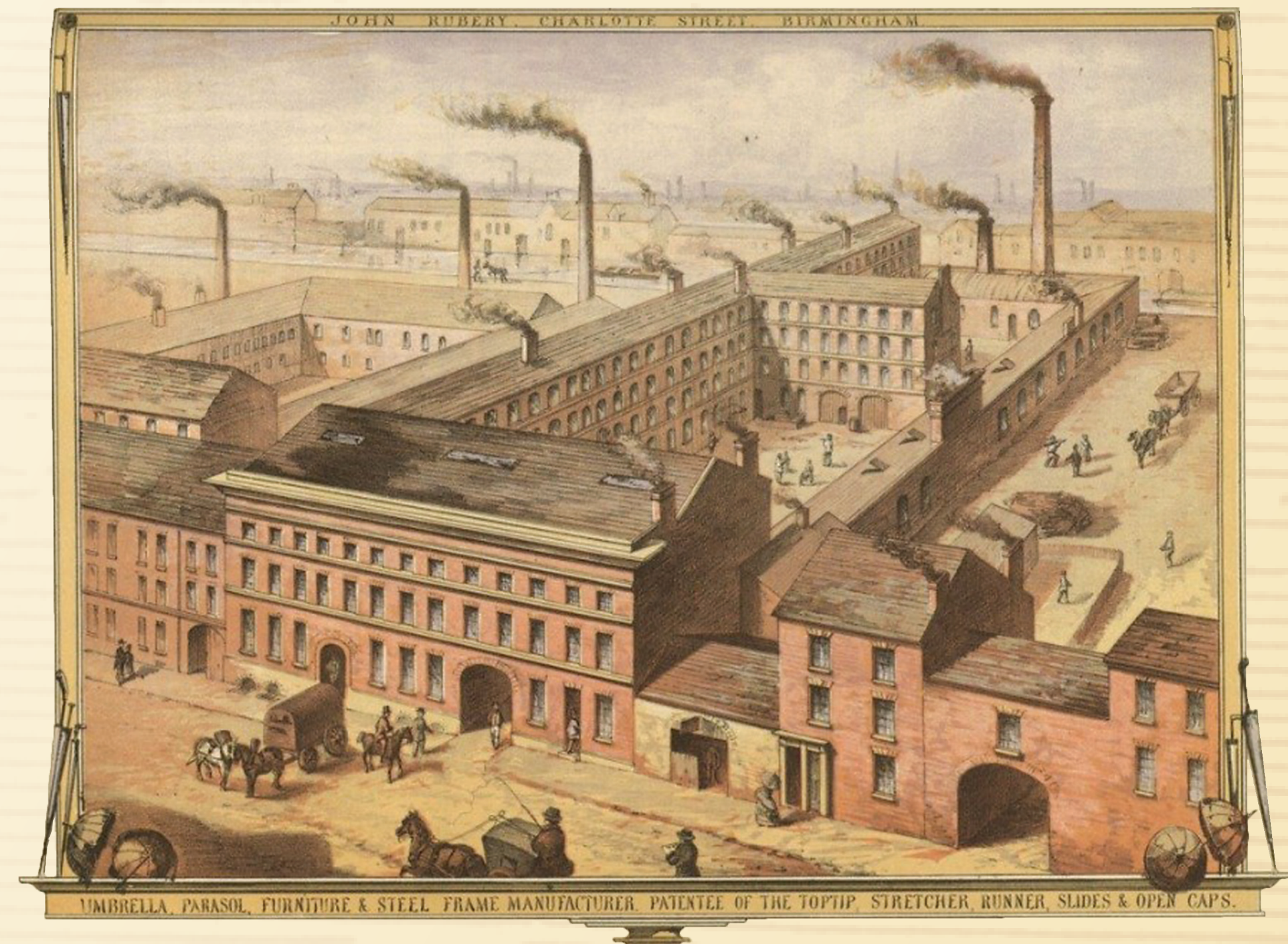
THE JERSEY BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham in England was called "the first manufacturing town in the world." It was also one of the first cities to put its industries on display, building an exhibition hall for that purpose in 1849. Two years later, the Great Exhibition, the first "world's fair," opened in London.

Newark's business leaders were influenced by these British models, but also by the honors their city's inventions and manufactured goods had received at competitions in New York and other places closer to home.

The movement to stage "a Newark Exhibition," bringing together the entire range of products made in the city, took shape early in 1872. Spearheaded by Newark native Albert M. Holbrook, it was "open to all citizens, all branches of industry," and no manufacturer was charged for the privilege of exhibiting. The sale of shares would cover initial expenses, admission fees would pay for the rest, and most of the profit would be donated to charities.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

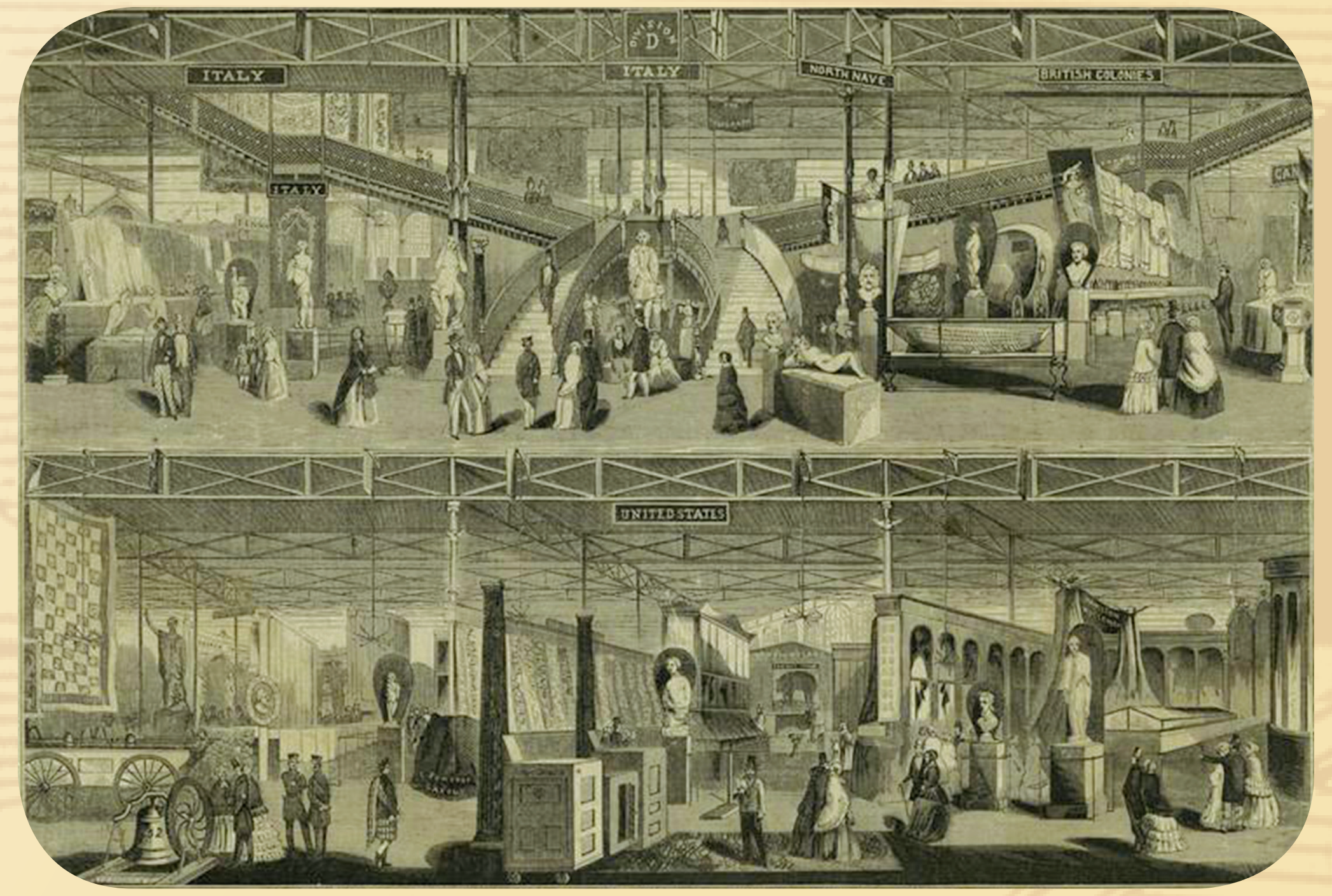


A center of the Industrial Revolution and "the city of a thousand trades," Birmingham was especially known for metal work, jewelry, button and tool making—industries in which the largest city in New Jersey would also excel.

The New Illustrated Directory Entitled Men and Things of Modern England (1858), www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk.

Manufactured products from around the world went on show in London at the Great Exhibition of 1851. A mammoth building in Hyde Park, especially constructed of cast iron and glass, housed thousands of exhibits. It was dubbed the Crystal Palace.

Steel engraving: Crystal Palace, 1851 Exhibition. Wellcome Images.

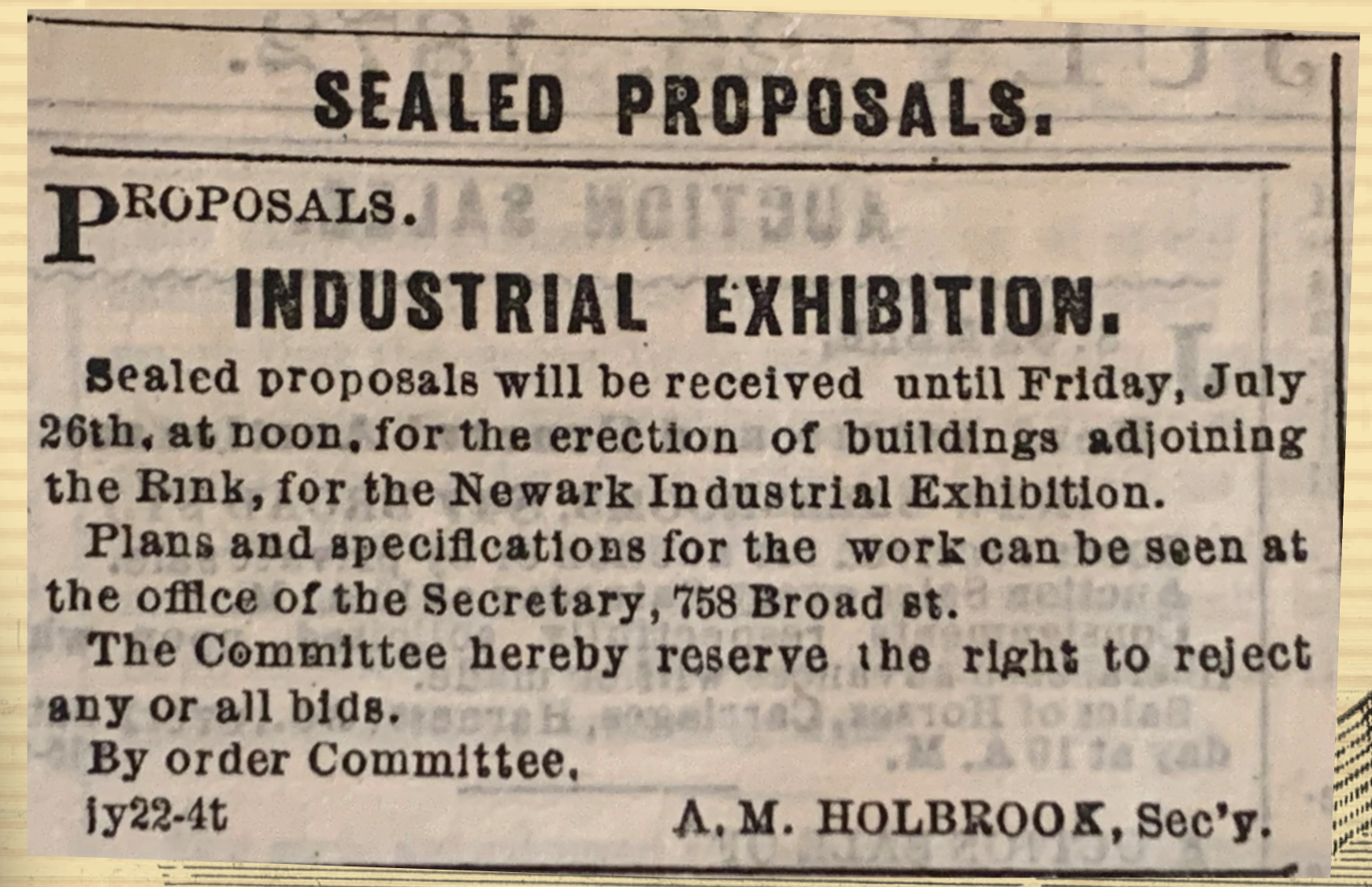


New York City followed London's example, putting up a Crystal Palace of its own on the site of today's Bryant Park. Products of Newark industry won great acclaim at fairs of the American Institute, held in the Crystal Palace in the 1850s.

A Panoramic Representation of the Interior of the Crystal Palace, New York (1854).
The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, New York Public Library.

Selling Newark was in Albert M. Holbrook's blood: for decades, his brother's printing office turned out the annual city directories. It's uncertain when Holbrook started to gather support for an exhibition devoted solely to Newark industry. When a Board of Managers was formed in early 1872, he became its Secretary. Holbrook stayed out of the limelight as much as possible, yet that year's Exhibition owed its existence and its success above all to his personality, organizing skill, and devotion to the city of his birth.

Essex County, N.J., Illustrated (Newark, N.J. 1897), 171.



SEALED PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Sealed proposals will be received until Friday, July 26th, at noon, for the erection of buildings adjoining the Rink, for the Newark Industrial Exhibition.

Plans and specifications for the work can be seen at the office of the Secretary, 758 Broad st.

The Committee hereby reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

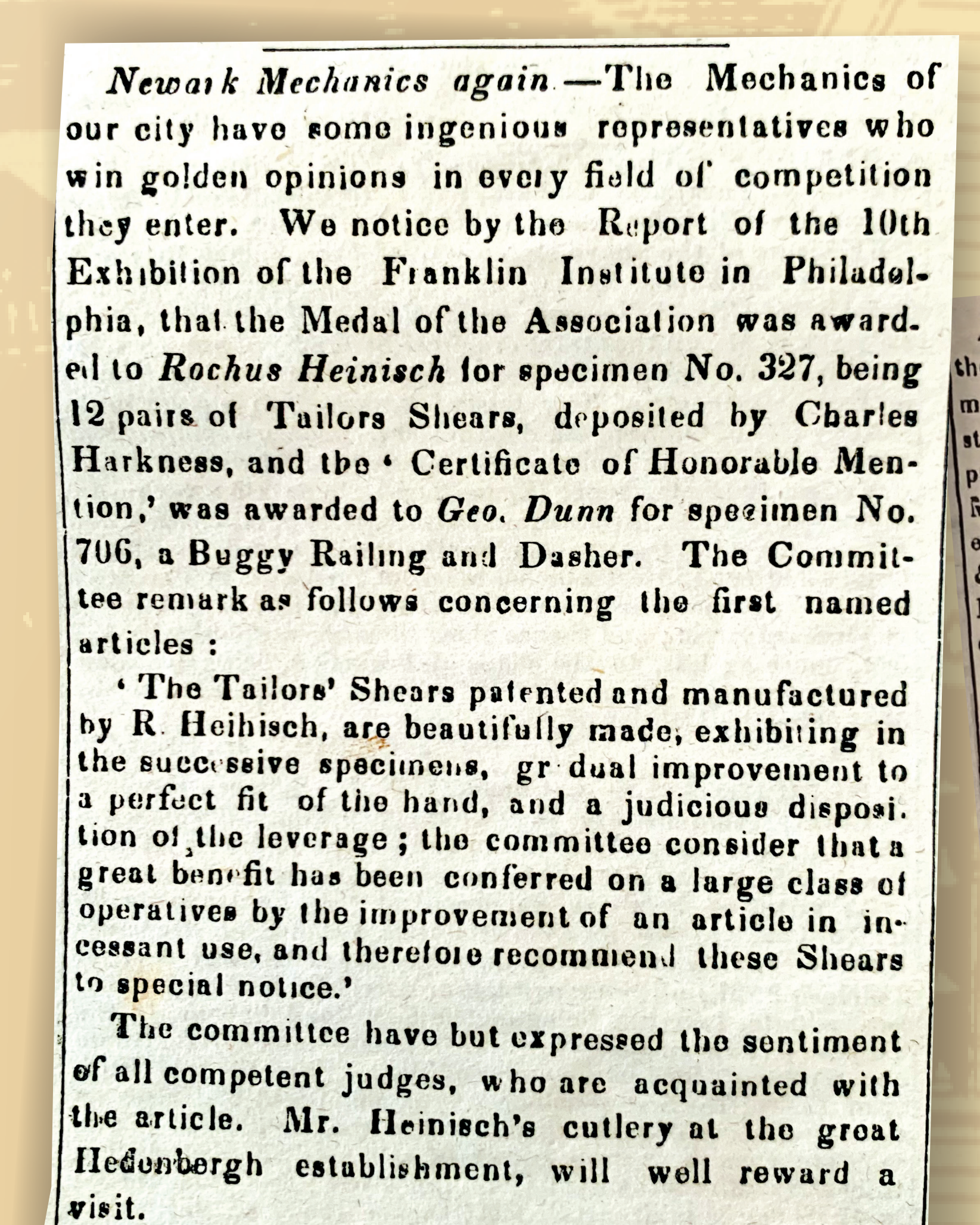
By order Committee,
jy22-4t A. M. HOLBROOK, Sec'y.

For Albert M. Holbrook, Newark's capacity to be the industrial capital of the Americas "needed only a public demonstration to show it to the world." The Board of Managers agreed to open the Exhibition in August 1872, at an indoor skating rink that stood at Washington and Marshall Streets. Two new buildings would be placed north and south of the Rink, adding 22,000 square feet of exhibit space.

Newark (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser,* 25 July 1872. *Holbrook's Newark City Directory for the Year Ending April 1, 1871* (Newark 1870).

Newark's makers and inventors brought home dozens of prizes from the fairs of the American Institute, held every year in New York. Among the favored inventions were the twelve-month mechanical clocks of Aaron D. Crane. Newark also dominated exhibitions of the Essex County Institute, once these expanded to include products of industry as well as agriculture in 1846.

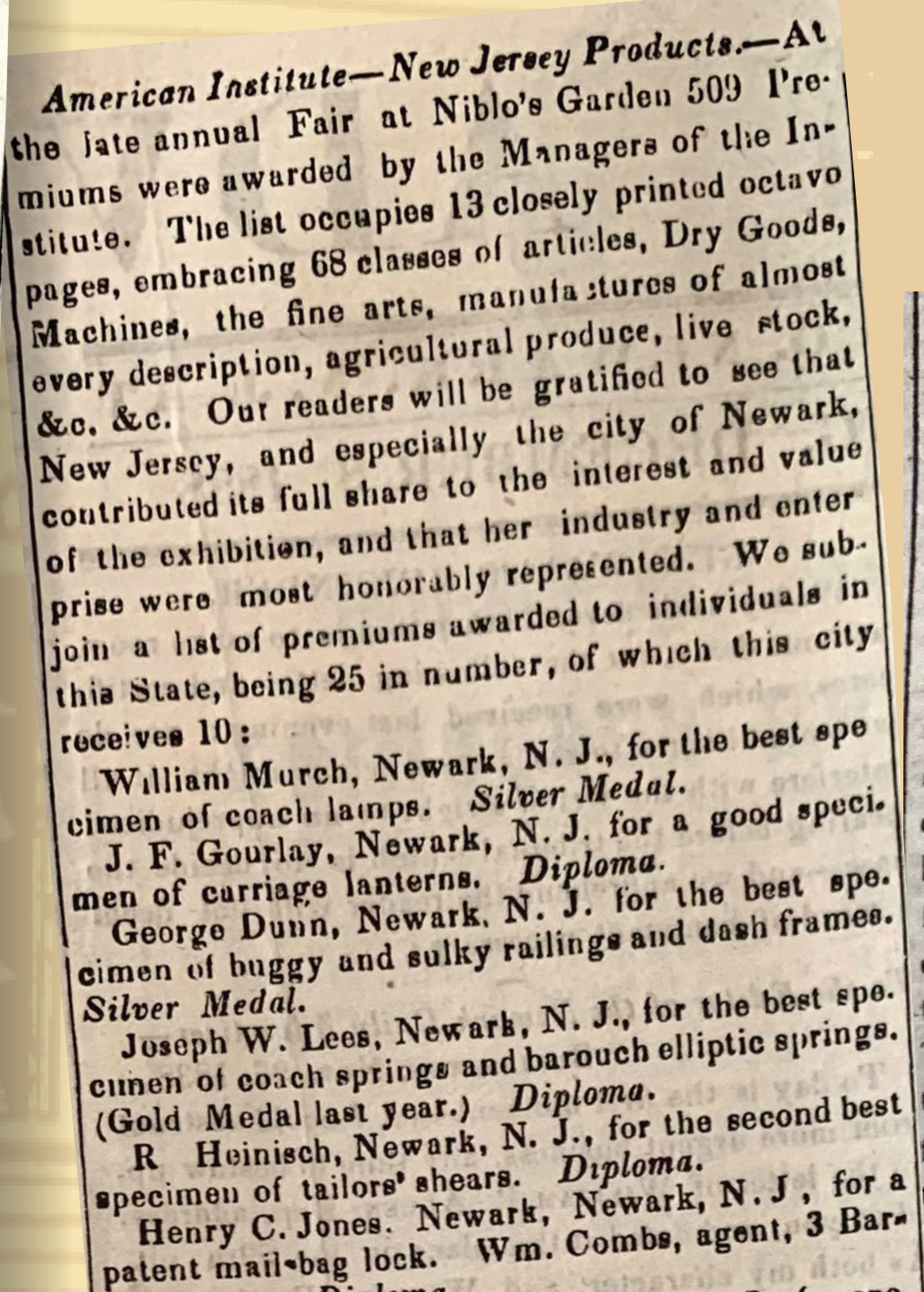
Newark (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser*, 29 November 1837, 3 December 1838, 5 September 1839, 15 December 1842, 15 April 1844.



Newark Mechanics again.—The Mechanics of our city have some ingenious representatives who win golden opinions in every field of competition they enter. We notice by the Report of the 10th Exhibition of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, that the Medal of the Association was awarded to *Rochus Heinisch* for specimen No. 327, being 12 pairs of Tailors Shears, deposited by Charles Harkness, and the 'Certificate of Honorable Mention,' was awarded to *Geo. Dunn* for specimen No. 706, a Buggy Railing and Dasher. The Committee remark as follows concerning the first named articles:

'The Tailors' Shears patented and manufactured by R. Heinisch, are beautifully made, exhibiting in the successive specimens, gradual improvement to a perfect fit of the hand, and a judicious disposition of the leverage; the committee consider that a great benefit has been conferred on a large class of operatives by the improvement of an article in incessant use, and therefore recommend these Shears to special notice.'

The committee have but expressed the sentiment of all competent judges, who are acquainted with the article. Mr. Heinisch's cutlery at the great Hedenbergh establishment, will well reward a visit.



American Institute—New Jersey Products.—At the late annual Fair at Niblo's Garden 509 Premiums were awarded by the Managers of the Institute. The list occupies 13 closely printed octavo pages, embracing 68 classes of articles, Dry Goods, Machines, the fine arts, manufactures of almost every description, agricultural produce, live stock, &c. &c. Our readers will be gratified to see that New Jersey, and especially the city of Newark, contributed its full share to the interest and value of the exhibition, and that her industry and enterprise were most honorably represented. We subjoin a list of premiums awarded to individuals in this State, being 25 in number, of which this city receives 10:

William Murch, Newark, N. J., for the best specimen of coach lamps. *Silver Medal.*

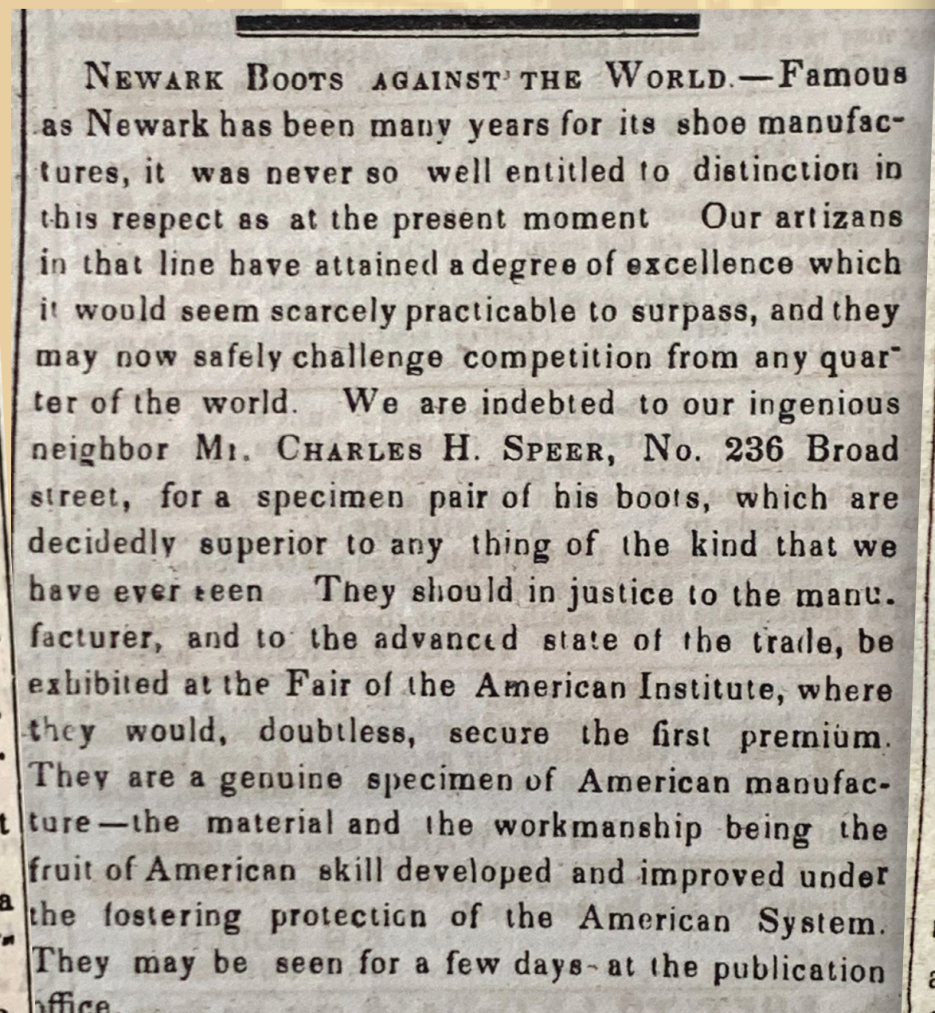
J. F. Gourlay, Newark, N. J. for a good specimen of carriage lanterns. *Diploma.*

George Dunn, Newark, N. J. for the best specimen of buggy and sulky railings and dash frames. *Silver Medal.*

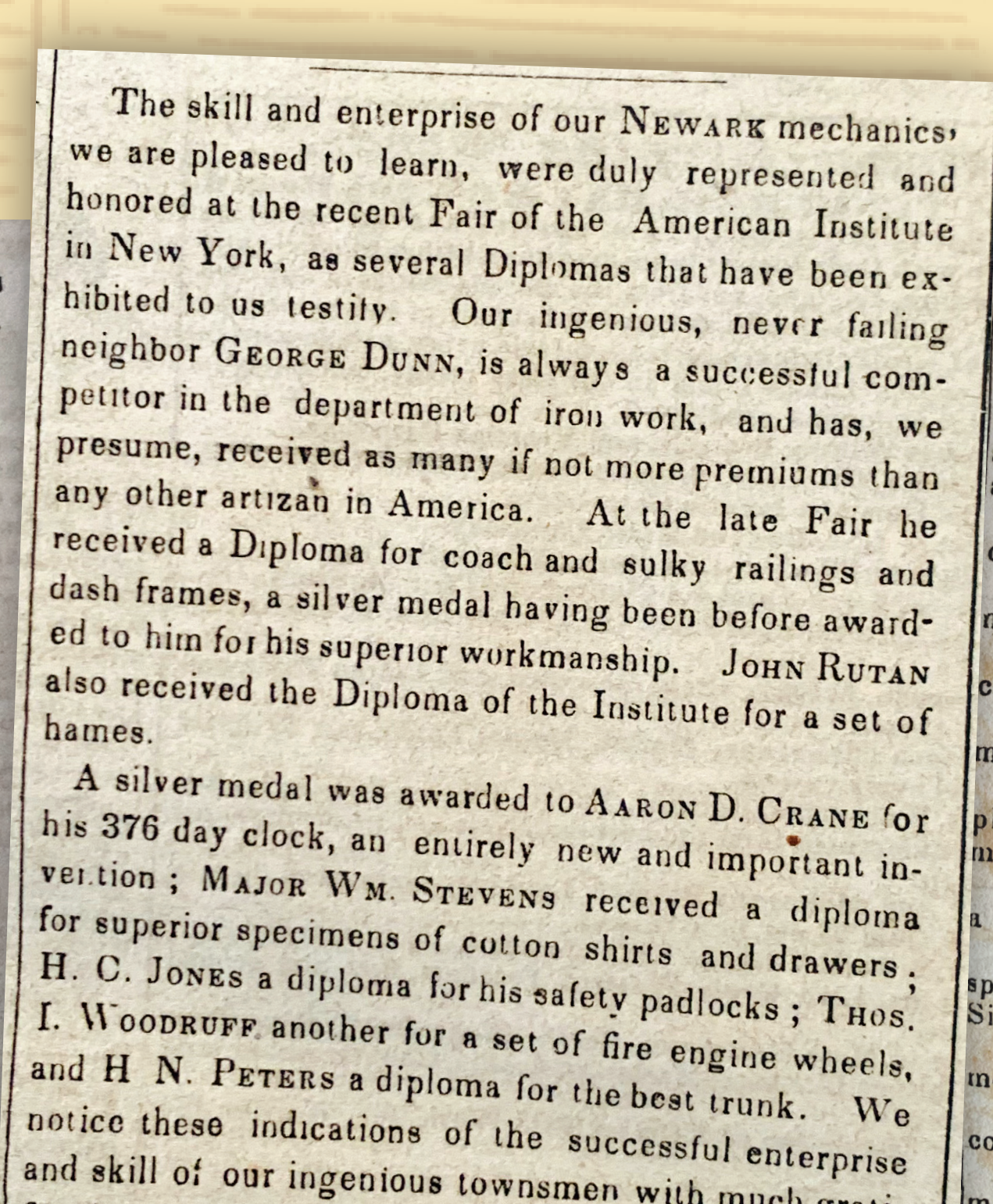
Joseph W. Lees, Newark, N. J., for the best specimen of coach springs and barouch elliptic springs. (Gold Medal last year.) *Diploma.*

R Heinisch, Newark, N. J., for the second best specimen of tailors' shears. *Diploma.*

Henry C. Jones. Newark, Newark, N. J, for a patent mail-bag lock. Wm. Combs, agent, 3 Bar-

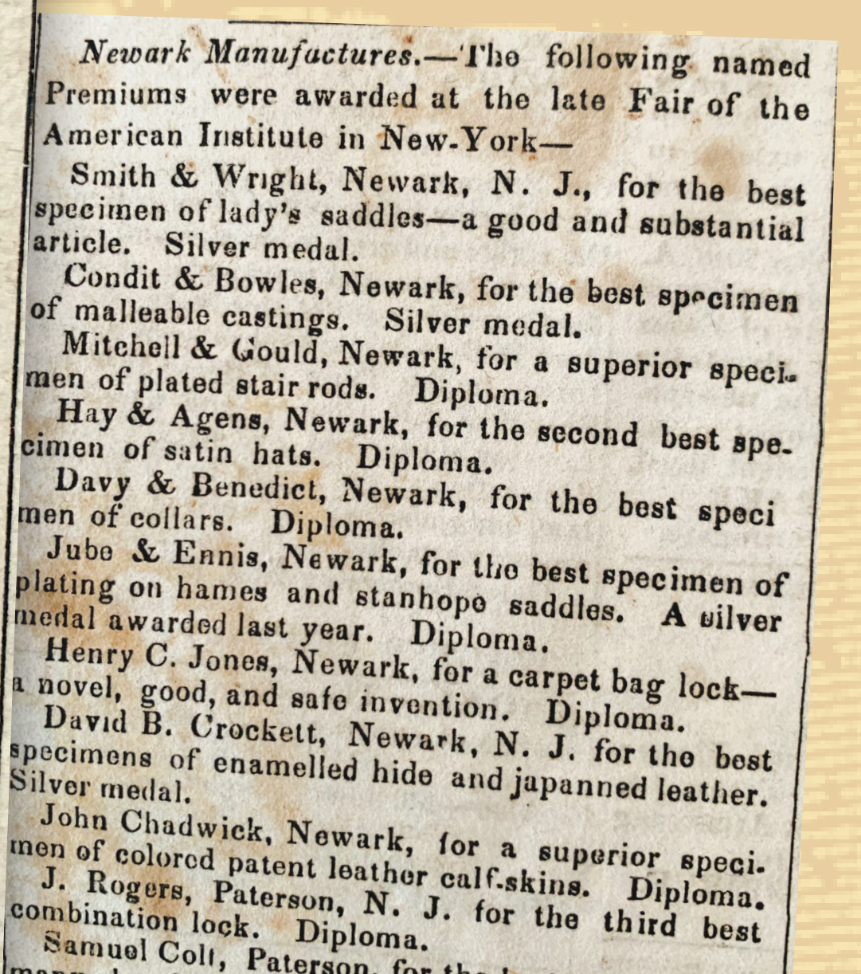


NEWARK BOOTS AGAINST THE WORLD.—Famous as Newark has been many years for its shoe manufactures, it was never so well entitled to distinction in this respect as at the present moment Our artizans in that line have attained a degree of excellence which it would seem scarcely practicable to surpass, and they may now safely challenge competition from any quarter of the world. We are indebted to our ingenious neighbor Mr. CHARLES H. SPEER, No. 236 Broad street, for a specimen pair of his boots, which are decidedly superior to any thing of the kind that we have ever seen They should in justice to the manufacturer, and to the advanced state of the trade, be exhibited at the Fair of the American Institute, where they would, doubtless, secure the first premium. They are a genuine specimen of American manufacture—the material and the workmanship being the fruit of American skill developed and improved under the fostering protection of the American System. They may be seen for a few days at the publication office.



The skill and enterprise of our NEWARK mechanics, we are pleased to learn, were duly represented and honored at the recent Fair of the American Institute in New York, as several Diplomas that have been exhibited to us testify. Our ingenious, never failing neighbor GEORGE DUNN, is always a successful competitor in the department of iron work, and has, we presume, received as many if not more premiums than any other artizan in America. At the late Fair he received a Diploma for coach and sulky railings and dash frames, a silver medal having been before awarded to him for his superior workmanship. JOHN RUTAN also received the Diploma of the Institute for a set of hames.

A silver medal was awarded to AARON D. CRANE for his 376 day clock, an entirely new and important invention; MAJOR WM. STEVENS received a diploma for superior specimens of cotton shirts and drawers; H. C. JONES a diploma for his safety padlocks; THOS. I. WOODRUFF another for a set of fire engine wheels, and H N. PETERS a diploma for the best trunk. We notice these indications of the successful enterprise and skill of our ingenious townsmen with much



Newark Manufactures.—The following named Premiums were awarded at the late Fair of the American Institute in New-York—

Smith & Wright, Newark, N. J., for the best specimen of lady's saddles—a good and substantial article. Silver medal.

Condit & Bowles, Newark, for the best specimen of malleable castings. Silver medal.

Mitchell & Gould, Newark, for a superior specimen of plated stair rods. Diploma.

Hay & Agens, Newark, for the second best specimen of satin hats. Diploma.

Davy & Benedict, Newark, for the best specimen of collars. Diploma.

Jube & Ennis, Newark, for the best specimen of plating on hames and stanhope saddles. A silver medal awarded last year. Diploma.

Henry C. Jones, Newark, for a carpet bag lock—a novel, good, and safe invention. Diploma.

David B. Crockett, Newark, N. J. for the best specimens of enamelled hide and japanned leather. Silver medal.

John Chadwick, Newark, for a superior specimen of colored patent leather calf-skins. Diploma.

J. Rogers, Paterson, N. J. for the third best combination lock. Diploma.

Samuel Colt, Paterson,

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Order out of Chaos

The 1872 Exhibition was slow to organize, dogged by delays and skepticism. Between April and August, auxiliary buildings had to be built, gas and water lines laid, tickets printed and hundreds of exhibits installed. Some manufacturers reserved floor space, but were late setting up their displays. Others felt too busy to participate, or thought their goods wouldn't command enough interest from visitors. The press fretted about a lack of prior publicity.

The president of the Board of Managers, Marcus L. Ward, assured city leaders that the Exhibition would prove a boon to business: "we will receive all our money back—at least our money's worth." But a resolution to commit public funds was narrowly defeated. The Exhibition would have to be self-supporting.

Against the odds, the work was finished in time and the empty exhibit spaces soon filled up, in what one newspaper called "Complete Order Coming Out of Chaos." The opening ceremonies on the night of August 20, with about 2,500 in attendance, proved the doubters wrong.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.


MEEKER & HEDDEN,

BUILDERS

Sash, Blind and Door Manufacturers,

HARD WOOD DOORS, MANTELS,

CHURCH, BANK & OFFICE FURNITURE

Wood Mouldings, Scroll and Circular Sawing,

Wood Turning, &c.,

OGDEN STREET, foot of ORANGE,

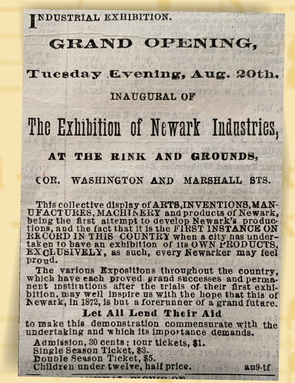
Newark, N. J.

Joseph J. Meeker of the firm Meeker & Hedden put up auxiliary buildings north and south of the Rink, accepting no money until the Exhibition ended. Work continued up to opening day. Managers promised that the Rink and its adjacent structures would be "filled to their utmost capacity with the products of the city." But no one could guarantee the crowds necessary to make the Exhibition pay for itself.

The Industrial Exhibition Building, Newark. *Harper's New Monthly Magazine, October 1876; Holbrook's Newark City Directory, for the year ending April 1, 1875* (Newark, N.J. 1874).

The Rink stood at the northwest corner of Washington and Marshall Streets, on property belonging to toolmaker Henry Sauerbier. After it ceased being used for industrial expositions, the hall operated as a theater until it was demolished around 1916. *The Star-Ledger* newspaper had its headquarters at this location from 1966 to 2014.

Third Ward, detail, in G. M. Hopkins, *Combined Atlas of the State of New Jersey and the City of Newark from Actual Survey Official Records & Private Plans* (Philadelphia 1873), 43.


INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

GRAND OPENING,

Tuesday Evening, Aug. 20th.

INAUGURAL OF

The Exhibition of Newark Industries,

AT THE RINK AND GROUNDS,

COR. WASHINGTON AND MARSHALL STS.

This collective display of ARTS, INVENTIONS, MANUFACTURES, MACHINERY and products of Newark, being the first attempt to develop Newark's productions, and the fact that it is the FIRST INSTANCE ON RECORD IN THIS COUNTRY when a city has undertaken to have an exhibition of its OWN PRODUCTS, EXCLUSIVELY, as such, every Newarker may feel proud.

The various Expositions throughout the country, which have each proved grand successes and permanent institutions after the trials of their first exhibition, may well inspire us with the hope that this of Newark, in 1872, is but a forerunner of a grand future.

Let All Lend Their Aid

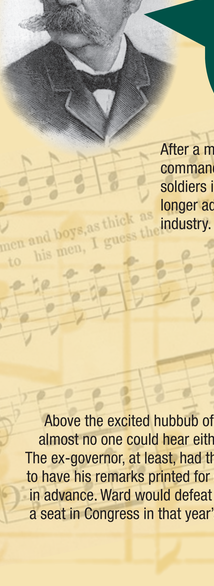
to make this demonstration commensurate with the undertaking and which its importance demands.

Admission, 30 cents; four tickets, $1.
Single Season Ticket, $3.
Double Season Ticket, $5.
Children under twelve, half price.

au9-tf

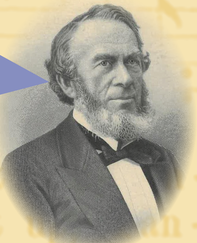
Some areas of the exhibit hall remained unfilled when it opened, as manufacturers hesitated to contribute goods until they were sure of an audience. But with new displays and musical performances throughout the 47 days of the Exhibition, a season ticket ended up being a solid investment.

Newark (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser*, 19 August 1872.


The Newark Industrial Exhibition.

The success which attended the industrial exhibitions held some years since in Manchester and Birmingham, and the numerous advantages derived from them by the manufacturers of those places, have left no doubt as to the utility of such enterprises. They are the means of awakening among the people an interest in the industries of the country. They also tend create a feeling of emulation among manufacturers and render each more anxious to excel, while, by bringing into familiar intercourse the mechanic and the artist, the manufacturer and the inventor, they result in important improvements in machinery, and in mechanical sciences. The manufacturers of Newark have made arrangements to hold in their city, commencing upon the 20th of August, an exhibition of industrial products, which will rival in extent any previously held in this country. The sympathies of all the leading business men of that city have been enlisted in the enterprise, and at a meeting of subscribers held some weeks ago a permanent organization was effected by the election of a board of managers and the following well known gentlemen as officers of the institution:—President, Hon. Marcus L. Ward; First Vice President, Thos. Peddie; Second Vice President, Leopold Graf; Third Vice President, David Campbell; Secretary, Albert H. Holbrook; Treasurer, Isaac Gaston; General Superintendent, Aaron M. Rodwell. It is the design of this enterprise to inaugurate a series of annual exhibitions, at which the mechanical arts of that city may be shown in all departments upon an extended scale, and under circumstances most favorable for comparison and study. The geographical position of Newark is peculiarly favorable for manufacturing purposes. It is adjacent to the largest commercial city in the United States, and has unsurpassed facilities for transportation and travel, by water, as well as by rail. Among its products are embraced nearly the entire list of manufactured articles, and many of its industrial establishments not only stand first in New Jersey, but are rivalled by none on the globe. Its rapid growth in size and importance is due solely to that enterprise which is exhibited in the project of the Newark Industrial Exhibition. The exhibition will doubtless be attended by a large number of manufacturers, merchants, and agriculturists from South Jersey, who join with us in wishing the enterprise unprecedented success.

West Jersey Press (Camden, N.J.), 26 June 1872.


"The city in which we live is emphatically a manufacturing one. Its growth, its prosperity, its wealth are inseparably connected with those mechanic arts which are here developed in a thousand forms of beauty and taste."
Marcus L. Ward

A lifelong Newarker, prosperous businessman and former governor of New Jersey, Marcus L. Ward spoke as president of the Board of Managers at the formal opening of the 1872 Exhibition.


"[F]or number and variety, quantity and quality of manufactures, Newark bears honorable comparison with the very greatest cities of the country, and by far outstrips any city of its size in the land."
Theodore Runyon

After a musical interlude, Theodore Runyon, commander of a division of New Jersey soldiers in the Civil War, delivered a much longer address on the merits of Newark industry.

Above the excited hubbub of the crowd, almost no one could hear either speaker. The ex-governor, at least, had the foresight to have his remarks printed for distribution in advance. Ward would defeat Runyon for a seat in Congress in that year's elections.

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Not half what Newark can do

Word of mouth, making up for a lack of advance publicity, swelled the crowds in the days and nights following the opening. "There seems to be a sort of fascination about the Rink for our people," wrote the *Newark Daily Advertiser*. "As the pleasure loving Parisian delights in the gardens of his native city, so the practical Newarker seems to love best the place where he can see the results of his own industry."

Visitors came out of interest in Newark's industrial output, but also for the concerts, celebrity appearances (including one by President Grant) and the ever-shifting spectacle of the well-dressed visitors themselves.

With new articles added almost daily, the buildings overflowed with objects and inventions described as ingenious, beautiful and useful. Yet it was "a common expression among visitors that this is not half what Newark can do."

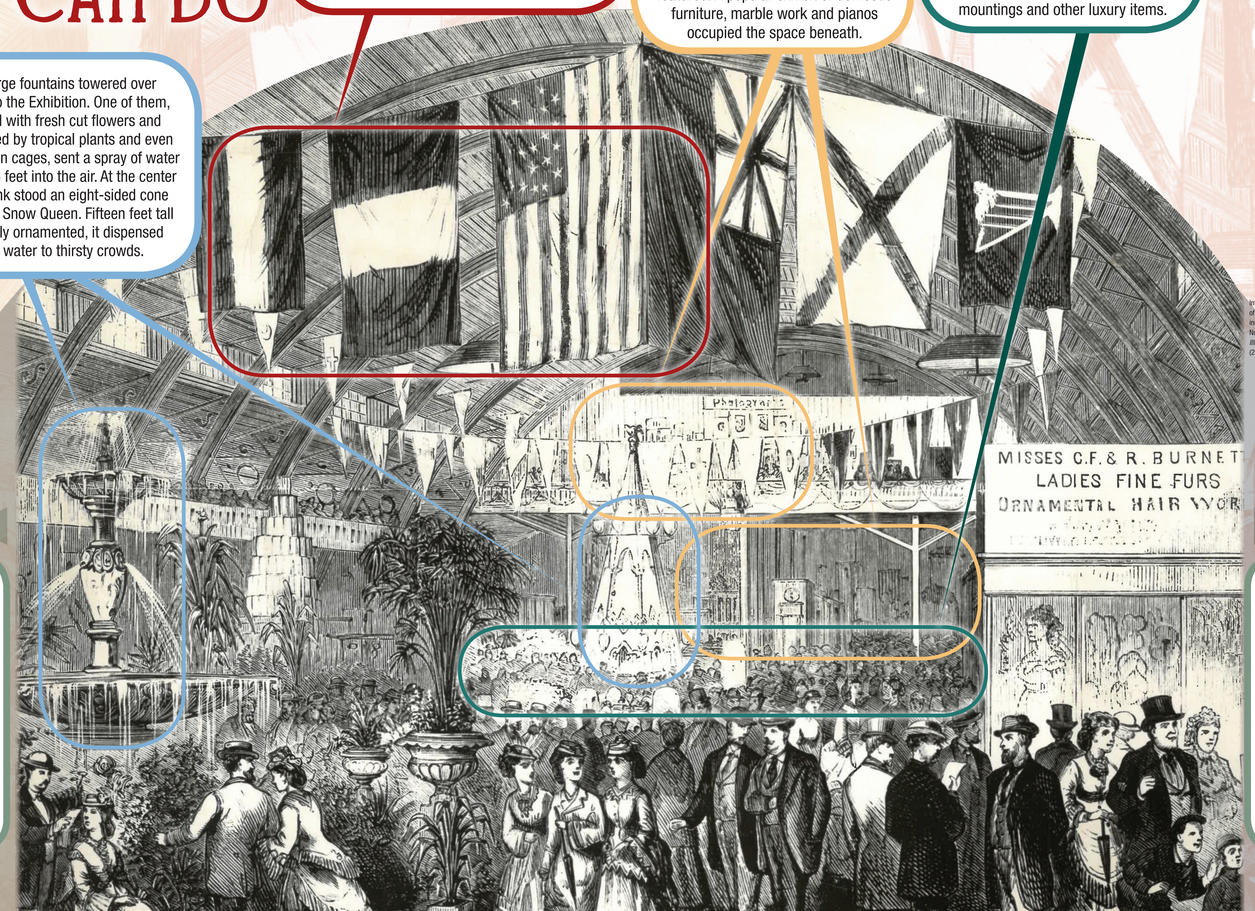
Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

Six giant reflectors, each fitted with 40 gas burners, cast a bright light from the Rink's vaulted wooden roof to the immense space below. Flags of several nations fluttered from the rafters.

An upstairs gallery at the west end displayed photographs and paintings by local artists. Drawings of the proposed Catholic cathedral were featured. A popular exhibit of domestic furniture, marble work and pianos occupied the space beneath.

Double rows of glass display cases ran nearly the whole length of the Rink's main floor, filled with jewelry, silverware, cutlery, gold and silver harness mountings and other luxury items.

Two large fountains towered over visitors to the Exhibition. One of them, adorned with fresh cut flowers and surrounded by tropical plants and even songbirds in cages, sent a spray of water leaping 25 feet into the air. At the center of the Rink stood an eight-sided cone called the Snow Queen. Fifteen feet tall and richly ornamented, it dispensed soda water to thirsty crowds.



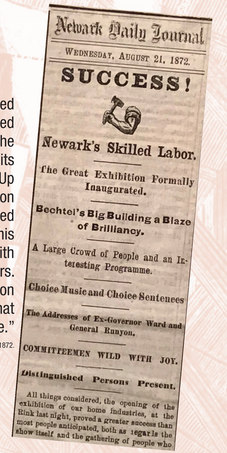
Interior view of the Exhibition of the products of local industry at the Rink in Newark. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* (21 September 1872), 29.

The footprint of the Rink was nearly doubled to host the Exhibition. A new annex on the south side housed carriages, wagons, carriage wheels, axles, springs, horse equipment and similar articles.

The north building displayed leather used for carriages, shoes, furniture and other purposes. Also on show were Newark-made ironwork, plumbing and gas fixtures, and machinery, which was kept running throughout the Exhibition.

The Exhibition celebrated Newark's moneyed interests, as well as the skill and hard work of its laboring population. Up and down the aisles on opening night walked "the capitalist and his family side by side with his workmen and theirs. They came for a common purpose—to see what they had made."

Newark (N.J.) Daily Journal, 21 August 1872.


Newark Daily Journal.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1872.

SUCCESS!

Newark's Skilled Labor.

The Great Exhibition Formally Inaugurated.

Bechtel's Big Building a Blaze of Brilliancy.

A Large Crowd of People and an Interesting Programme.

Choice Music and Choice Sentences

The Addresses of Ex-Governor Ward and General Runyon.

COMMITTEEMEN WILD WITH JOY.

Distinguished Persons Present.

All things considered, the opening of the exhibition of our home industries, at the Rink last night, proved a greater success than most people anticipated, both as regards the show itself and the gathering of people who

The 1872 Exhibition served as a venue for making deals, people watching and politics. Both main candidates for the White House that year, newspaper publisher Horace Greeley and incumbent Ulysses S. Grant, made appearances in September, a few days apart. The Rink was so mobbed for Grant's visit that he could see none of the displays, and was obliged to return the next morning.

[Greeley] Marshall Everett, *Famous Americans. Their portraits, biographies and thrilling experiences* (Chicago 1901).
[Grant] Brady-Handy Collection, Library of Congress.

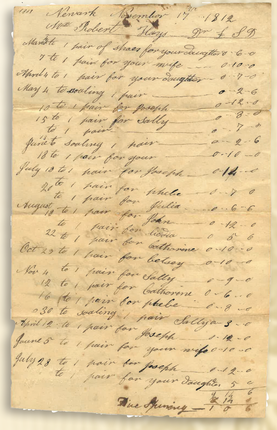
Nothing like leather

Leather making and leather products have always been looked on as the chief industry of Newark. Indeed, the practice of treating and finishing animal hides and fashioning goods from them dates to the period of earliest settlement.

Newark's leather makers achieved supremacy in the 19th century with the wider use of hide-splitting machines that could double or triple their output, and the production of high-gloss, water-resistant "patent" leather. Both developments owed much to the genius of inventor Seth Boyden. By 1860, almost all the patent leather made in the U.S. came from Newark.

Newark leather fed a global market. Newark-made patent and other "fancy" leather went into carriage tops, harnesses, shoes, gloves, handbags, men's belts, luggage, trunks, bookbinding, and upholstery for furniture and automobiles.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

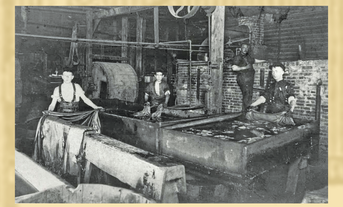


An unnamed shoemaker kept this record of work for a Newark customer in 1811–12.

Newark Business Collection (N.J.).

Leather production demanded significant amounts of labor, time and resources. Animal skins had to be washed, scraped, soaked in large tanning vats or barrels, stretched and dried. Needing a dependable water supply, Moses N. Combs and other early tanners settled in the area around Market and Washington Streets, known as The Swamp. By the 1850s, hides had to be purchased from further and further away, and ultimately imported from other continents to keep up with demand. Tanning involved the use of harsh chemicals, polluting Newark's streams and rivers with its effluent.

Edward Hazen, *Popular technology; or, professions and trades* (New York 1842), 1:111.



Brothers Charles and John Nieder made fancy leather goods in adjoining factories beginning in the 1880s. Many tanneries began switching from a solution of vegetable matter to the use of chromium, a process perfected in Newark. Here employees in the early 1900s pose by some of the Nieder tanning vats.

Thomas B. Peddie began the manufacture of trunks in Newark in 1835. The company expanded to occupy two four-story brick buildings on Market Street. At the 1872 Exhibition, T. B. Peddie's offerings included "trunks, valises, traveling bags, satchels, &c. in variety."

T. B. Peddie advertising postal cover, PaperHistory LLC.


"Hand Sewed" Room.


Finishing Room.


Fitting Room.

The Banister Shoe Company promoted its fine footwear with these factory scenes. Banister grew from a modest Market Street location into a large plant at Orange and First Streets, turning out 1,200 pairs of shoes and boots daily. Shoes continued to be made and marketed under the Banister name into the 1970s.

Shoe catalog, *ca.* 1890 (?). Banister Shoe Company Collection.

Arriving from Ireland in the 1850s, 14-year-old Hugh Smith first apprenticed with a currier and tanner, then went into business with his brother Charles in 1862. By the 1880s their company had grown to nearly half a million dollars in sales. Its tanneries, shown here, covered three city blocks on both sides of Central Avenue.

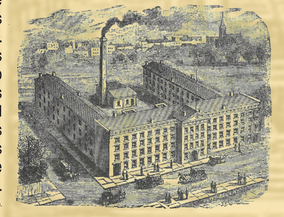
Newark the city of industry. Facts and figures concerning the metropolis of New Jersey ([Newark, N.J.] 1912) 102.

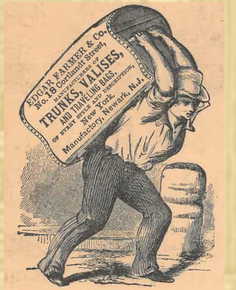
Blanchard, Bro. & Lane prospered during the Civil War from contracts to equip Union soldiers with knapsacks and other leather goods. Its large facility between Bruen and McWhorter Streets specialized in patent and enameled leather, and later supplied upholstery for automobiles. Its last address was the General Leather building on Frelinghuysen Avenue.

Newark the city of industry. Facts and figures concerning the metropolis of New Jersey ([Newark, N.J.] 1912) 100.

Wiliam J. Dudley brought his fine shoe making skills, and many of his employees, from his native England. Between 1850 and 1875, Dudley's factory moved five times due to increased demand. In the 1880s proprietors James Johnston and William A. Murphy gave their names to the company. "The best shoes anybody can buy" became the Johnston & Murphy slogan.

Year book of the Board of Trade 1902 ([Newark, N.J. 1902?]).





Trunk maker Edgar Farmer & Co. had a booth in 1872 adjacent to competitor T. B. Peddie, in keeping with what the *Newark Daily Journal* called their "laudable rivalry."

Holbrook's Newark City and Business Directory for the year ending April 1, 1885 (Newark, N.J. 1884).

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The City of Gold

Newark's jewelry industry can be traced back to 1801, when Epaphras Hinsdale opened a factory on Broad Street, the first in the United States. Hinsdale's successors, John Taylor and Isaac Baldwin, introduced machinery to manufacture jewelry in quantity, and developed a thriving market in New York City and beyond.

By 1872, Newark-made jewelry was on a par with Newark leather in the value of its production. German immigrants filled the ranks of the city's jewelry makers. Among them was Edward Balbach, who introduced processes for refining silver and gold out of the dust swept from factory floors.

Because buyers were unaccustomed to luxury goods made in America, recognition of Newark's dominant role in the jewelry trade came slowly. Much of the best Newark work was falsely marketed as European-made. The 1872 Exhibition brought an increased awareness of the superior quality of Newark products. In the words of one historian, "The eyes of the blind have been opened and dazzled by the brilliancy of Newark workmanship."

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

Durand & Co., founded in 1830, became one of Newark's most prolific makers of fine jewelry. A glass case at the Exhibition displayed more than $100,000 worth of gold pieces from the factory on Franklin Street. They were removed from the building each night and returned the following morning.

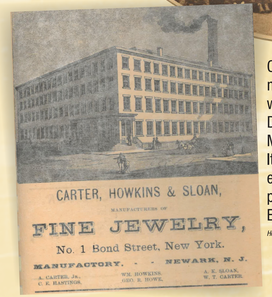
Newark the city of industry. Facts and figures concerning the metropolis of New Jersey (Newark, N.J.] 1912) 112.

A practicing physician, Louis Lelong founded a smelting factory on Halsey Street to serve Newark's expanding jewelry and silver trade. Lelong & Brother had a display at the 1872 Exhibition "showing the various processes" of purifying gold and silver sweepings.

Holbrook's Newark City and Business Directory official for the year ending May 1, *1891* (Newark, N.J. 1890), 1522.

Jewelry from human hair conveyed a sentimental attachment to a loved one, living or departed, and was a popular art form in the nineteenth century. Several Newark makers displayed their work at the 1872 Exhibition, notably Mrs. Dorretta Hunter, whose Ornamental Hair Establishment also produced curls, braids and wigs.

Alexanna Speight, *The lock of hair: its history, ancient and modern, natural and artistic: with the art of working in hair* (London 1871); *Newark* (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser*, 27 June 1859.



Carter, Howe & Co. was the first jewelry manufacturer to use steam power. In 1872, when it was known as Carter, Howkins & Dodd, the company doubled the size of its Mulberry Street factory to meet demand. It's believed that at one time the firm employed more workers than any other producer of solid gold jewelry in the U.S., England, France or Germany.

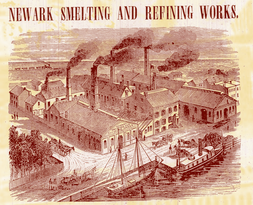
Holbrook's Newark City Directory, for the year ending April 1, 1879... (Newark, N.J. 1878), 1113.

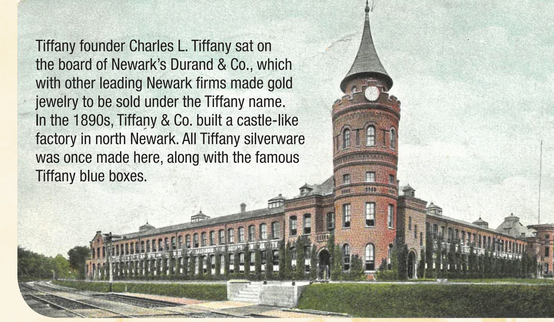
Before 1850, jewelry makers sold their floor dust to speculators, who then sold it to European refiners. After Edward Balbach & Son built the first refining plant of its kind in the U.S., other cities' jewelers sent their floor sweepings to Newark. The Balbach works innovatively separated the precious metals, turning them into bullion. Located at the site of today's Riverbank Park, it became the nation's largest commercial electrolytic refinery.

Holbrook's Newark City Directory, for the year ending April 1, 1871 (Newark, N.J. 1870), inside back cover.

George Krementz was Newark's preeminent manufacturer of gentlemen's jewelry: vest buttons, cufflinks, tie clasps, and the one-piece collar button first patented in 1884, for which Krementz & Co. became world-famous.

Time (6 December 1930), 37.

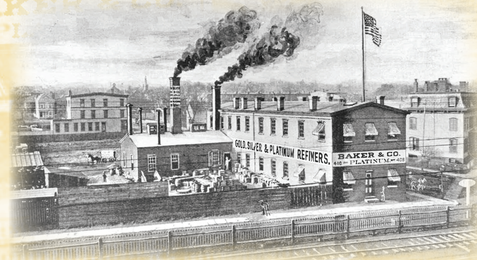




Tiffany founder Charles L. Tiffany sat on the board of Newark's Durand & Co., which with other leading Newark firms made gold jewelry to be sold under the Tiffany name. In the 1890s, Tiffany & Co. built a castle-like factory in north Newark. All Tiffany silverware was once made here, along with the famous Tiffany blue boxes.

Henry Blank learned goldsmithing in the shop of Durand and Co., later joining the jewelry firm that would bear his name from 1917 on. Women's jeweled wristwatches were a specialty. Superb pendant and purse style watches for women, wrist and pocket watches for men were also popular.

[Wristwatch] Leslie Sykes-O'Neill, "The jewelled watches of Henry Blank and Company of Newark," *The magazine Antiques* (January 2006), 189.



Baker & Company, established in 1867 to produce gold rings and cameos, was for a time the only American refiner of platinum, a vital component of the electronics industry and dentistry. The Baker plant covered an entire city block on New Jersey Railroad Avenue, and employed more than 1,000 workers into the 1950s.

Newark, N.J., Illustrated. A Souvenir of the City and its Numerous Industries (Newark, N.J. 1893) 130.

A CHEMICAL ROMANCE

The saga of Newark's chemical industries has all the marks of an epic tale, brimming with ingenuity, intrigue, heroes, villains … and a cast of thousands.

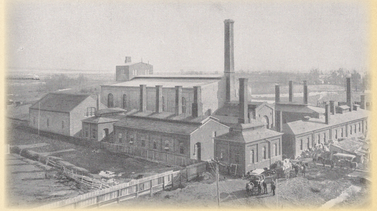
The city was the site of countless advances in chemical manufacturing, beginning with mixing of paints and varnishes, and continuing with fabrication of colors and dyes. Newark varnishes enjoyed widespread use on railway cars, coaches and furniture. Over the years, and spurred by wartime demands, giant factories spanning several city blocks turned out synthetic pigments, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers and plastics for the nation and the world.

These industries gave steady work to a rising tide of immigrants and their descendants. But the hulking factories and towering smokestacks that came to define the city left its air, water and soil tainted by acrid, caustic and sometimes lethal substances.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

House and sign painter Israel Baldwin began selling paint and varnish around 1850 from a Plane Street location. Baldwin's "Newark White Lead" paint was marketed under the Stag's Head brand name.

Boyd's Business Directory of the State of New Jersey, together with a general directory of the citizens of Newark, a list of over 8000 farmers, and an appendix of much useful information (Philadelphia 1860).



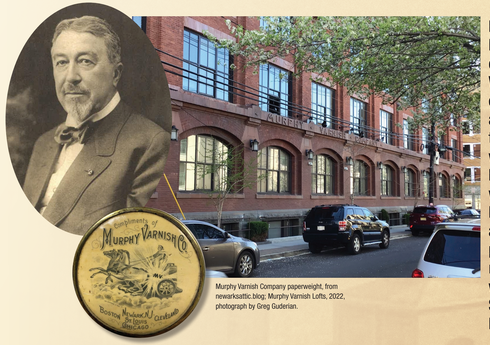
Known to locals simply as "the chemical works," Charles Cooper & Co. made acids and other chemicals for use in the photography, pharmaceutical and jewelry industries. The factory covered three city blocks along South Street, and had 40 different products on display at the 1872 Exhibition.

Charles Cooper & Co., New Chemical Buildings, (Acid Works), in Newark, N.J., Illustrated. A Souvenir of the City and its Numerous Industries (Newark, N.J. 1893), 165.

Thousands of tons of animal bones were shipped to Newark each year, to be converted by the Lister Brothers Agricultural Chemical Works into a broad range of products, including phosphate of lime, a valuable fertilizing agent. At the 1872 Exhibition, the Listers displayed giant pumpkins as proof of the effectiveness of their fertilizers.

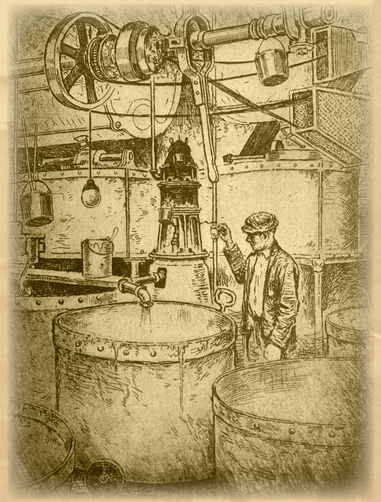
The 1872 Exhibition proclaimed dye company Heller & Merz "the only manufactory in the United States" of synthetic ultramarine, a blue pigment used in textiles, paper printing and laundering. Its Wilson Avenue plant also turned out coal tar and other dyes for leather, paints and varnishes.

Scientific American 43:8 (21 August 1880).



Murphy Varnish Company paperweight, from newarkoldtbc.blog; Murphy Varnish Lofts, 2022, photograph by Greg Guderian.

Franklin Murphy entered Newark's varnish industry after distinguished service in the Civil War. His company expanded to other cities thanks to the range and quality of its products and their extensive promotion, of which the paperweight pictured here is one example. Murphy would enter Newark and New Jersey politics as well, and as governor implemented progressive child labor laws. The many monuments to Murphy's work include his McWhorter Street plant, refurbished as Murphy Varnish Lofts.



An artist's view of paint manufacturing in Newark.

George A. Bradshaw, *Mixing paint—Newark*, in *Journal of industry & finance* (April 1929), 28.

To disperse the noxious gases emitted, pigment and dye company Heller & Merz built a 350-foot chimney. Seen looming over the third base line of Ruppert Stadium, it was one of the tallest smokestacks in the country.

Wiedenmayer Park, from digitalballparks.com.

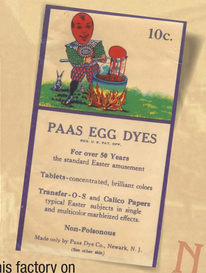
Celluloid, First Made Commercial Success in Newark by Hyatts, One Of City's Chief Gifts to World; Industry's Growth Like a Romance

Seeking a substitute for ivory billiard balls, John Wesley Hyatt developed a nitrocellulose-based material that could be heated and pressed into a durable plastic called celluloid. The products of Hyatt's Celluloid Corporation, founded in 1872, replaced myriad objects once made of ivory, tortoise shell, rubber, marble, bone and wood.

Newark (N.J.) *Evening News*, 7 February 1917.

About a mile beyond Newark's downtown, the easterly flow of the Passaic River bends briefly north. Here once stood the great brick plants and smokestacks of the New Jersey Zinc Company, where Sussex County ore was transformed into zinc oxide and alloys of zinc and iron. New Jersey Zinc displayed samples of ore and its by-products in the machinery wing of the Exhibition.

Detail. Part of Twelfth Ward, in G. M. Hopkins, *Combined atlas of the state of New Jersey and the city of Newark from actual survey official records & private plans* (Philadelphia 1873), 95; *Newark, N.J., Illustrated. A Souvenir of the City and its Numerous Industries* (Newark, N.J. 1893), 142.



The PAAS Dye Company once occupied this factory on Shipman Street. An Easter tradition, PAAS egg dye kits were first formulated by William M. Townley, a Broad Street druggist.

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
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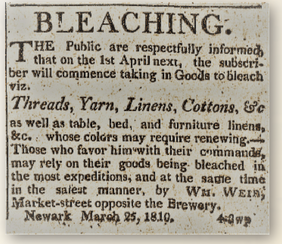
Dress to Impress

"One of the best exhibitions of Newark industry," said the *Daily Advertiser*, was the clothing worn by the throngs of visitors to the Rink in 1872. "Many of the best fabrics were made by those who toil and spin in our city." In fact, Newark-made apparel, from hats to hose, fed a worldwide market, while garment makers elsewhere got their silk and cotton thread from Newark manufacturers Singer and Clark.

The high demand for Newark-made clothes led to only modest improvements in workers' pay and conditions. Wages in the hat and needle trades were low, often based solely on the number of pieces produced, and reliance on immigrant labor was the norm. Girls and young women did most of the sewing, either at home or in factories, amid sometimes appallingly unsafe conditions. Newark's deadliest fire in 1910 took the lives of 26 female garment workers between the ages of 16 and 59.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.



BLEACHING.

THE Public are respectfully informed, that on the 1st April next, the subscriber will commence taking in Goods to bleach viz.

Threads, Yarn, Linens, Cottons, &c

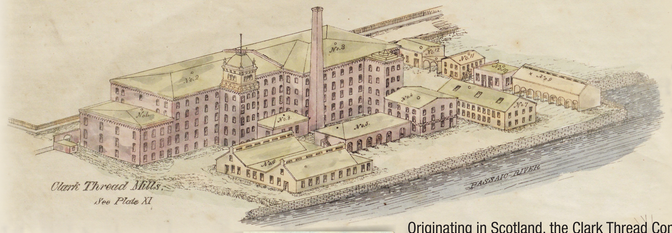
as well as table, bed, and furniture linens, &c. whose colors may require renewing.—Those who favor him with their commands, may rely on their goods being bleached in the most expeditious, and at the same time in the safest manner, by WM. WEIR, Market-street opposite the Brewery.

Newark March 25, 1810. 4awp

Newark tailor Moses Harris promoted his stock of ready-made wear in a Fourth of July parade in 1821, but most clothing was still produced at home. This 1810 newspaper notice encouraged needleworkers to bring in their thread, yarn and fabric to be bleached.

The Sentinel of Freedom (Newark, N.J.), 17 April 1810.

Formed in 1851, the company of Moore & Sealy Brothers pioneered innovations in the dyeing and shaping of fur and wool for hats. The Newark plant on New Jersey Railroad Avenue shipped children's and men's hats all over North and South America.



Originating in Scotland, the Clark Thread Company opened its first mill in Newark in 1864. The Clark "self-acting spooler," which mechanically wound thread onto spools and packaged them, fascinated visitors to the 1872 Exhibition. Clark Thread would lead the industry worldwide, thanks to the popularity of its "O. N. T." brand (for "Our New Thread"). Across the Passaic in East Newark, many of the Clark buildings survive and are undergoing redevelopment.

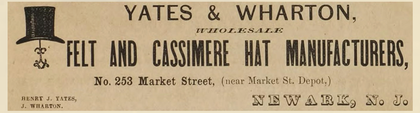
[Mills] Harrison Vanduyne & D. H. Sherman, *Fire insurance map of Newark, N.J.* (1868). [Spooling room] *A thread mill illustrated. Clark's spool cotton: how and where it is made* (1882). [Trade card] Donald Karp Miscellaneous Newark Collection.

James Lovatt began to manufacture silk thread in Newark in the 1840s. To meet soaring demand created by its popular sewing machines, the Singer Manufacturing Company established its own thread mill on Bank Street in 1862. Ten years later, both Lovatt and Singer showed their wares at the Industrial Exhibition. Singer's display demonstrated the technology of thread making, and featured a pyramid of the finished product in many hues.

The Northern Monthly, devoted to the vigorous discussion of topics of to-day 2 (November–April 1868).

There were two dozen button making firms in Newark in 1918. Factories, like this one on New Jersey Railroad Avenue, clustered along the train lines to receive shipments of mother-of-pearl, tagua nut and other materials, from which millions of buttons were turned out yearly.

Newark the city of industry. Facts and figures concerning the metropolis of New Jersey ([Newark, N.J.] 1912), 124.

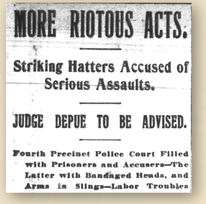


YATES & WHARTON,
WHOLESALE
FELT AND CASSIMERE HAT MANUFACTURERS,
No. 253 Market Street, (near Market St. Depot,)
HENRY J. YATES, J. WHARTON. NEWARK, N. J.

While William and Andrew Rankin dominated hat making in the early 1800s, other captains of the industry were to put their hats, hat manufacturing tools and methods on display in 1872: Corey & Stewart, Philetus W. Vail, John Wharton, Henry J. Yates, and others. Admirers tended to overlook the social costs of an increasingly mechanized trade.

Hat makers had formed some of Newark's first labor unions, and were embroiled in one of the city's longest, most bitter strikes in 1894.

Boyd's business directory of the State of New Jersey, together with a general directory of the citizens of Newark, a list of over 8000 farmers, and an appendix of much useful information (Philadelphia 1860). *Newark* (N.J.) *Daily Advertiser*, 24 October 1894.



MORE RIOTOUS ACTS.

Striking Hatters Accused of Serious Assaults.

JUDGE DEPUE TO BE ADVISED.

Fourth Precinct Police Court Filled with Prisoners and Accusers—The Latter with Bandaged Heads, and Arms in Slings—Labor Troubles

The Wolf Muslin Undergarment Company occupied the top floor of an antiquated factory on High Street. It had one barely serviceable fire escape. On a Saturday morning in November 1910, fire broke out on a lower floor and spread rapidly through the building. Of the 116 female employees of Wolf Muslin, 26 did not survive. The losses of the High Street fire, and the Triangle Shirtwaist calamity in New York just four months later, brought long-needed attention to deficiencies in workplace safety.

Leslie's illustrated weekly, 15 December 1910.

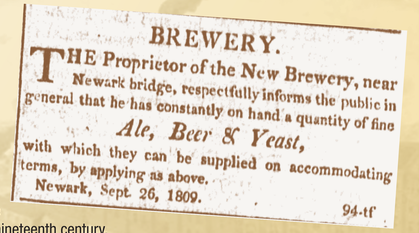
MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

When Newark poured with pride

The making of strong drink—cider, beer, ale and distilled liquors—goes back to Newark's days as a village encircled by fruit orchards and fields of oat, rye, wheat and maize.

Location was a major factor in the beverage industry's growth, but it was large-scale immigration from Europe that put Newark in the forefront. New arrivals brought cultures and customs that encouraged the production and consumption of alcoholic drinks. Many came with brewing and distilling experience that they turned into successful businesses. Some amassed great wealth and employed thousands of other Newarkers. Yet the industry in which Newark's fame spread the farthest was not represented at the 1872 Exhibition.

Alcohol consumption was not without its problems, and through the 19th century national movements gained momentum to limit or even eradicate it. These culminated in a federal ban on nearly all alcoholic beverages, in effect from 1920 to 1933. Prohibition closed most of Newark's breweries and was deeply unpopular. Inevitably, the city became a hotbed of bootlegging, liquor smuggling and organized crime.



BREWERY.

THE Proprietor of the New Brewery, near Newark bridge, respectfully informs the public in general that he has constantly on hand a quantity of fine

Ale, Beer & Yeast,

with which they can be supplied on accommodating terms, by applying as above.

Newark, Sept. 26, 1809. 94-tf

While Newark cider was famous as far back as colonial times, beer and ale were produced only on a small scale until the nineteenth century. This advertisement for a brewery near Bridge Street dates to 1809.

New-Jersey telescope (Newark, N.J.), 26 September 1809.

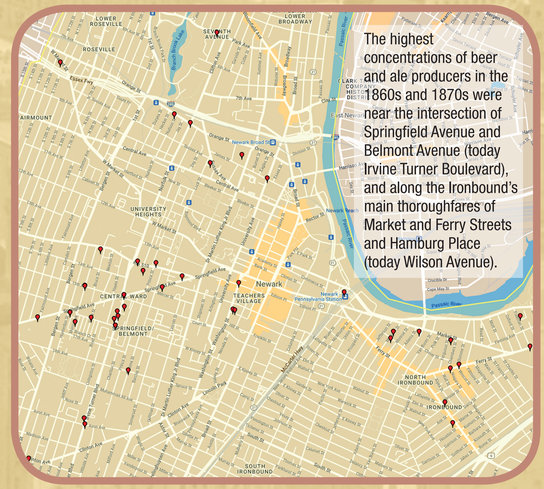
Scots-born Peter Ballantine began making ale on High Street in 1840, then built large plants producing ale and lager beer at two sites near the Passaic River. The firm of Ballantine & Sons, known for its three-ring trademark standing for "purity, strength and flavor," grew to be the sixth largest maker of beer and ale in the U.S. The Ballantine brand was acquired by Milwaukee-based Pabst Brewing Company in 1985.

Newark the city of industry. Facts and figures concerning the metropolis of New Jersey ([Newark, N.J.] 1912), 168.

During the Prohibition years, beverages having more than 0.5% alcohol content were banned nationwide. While it proved a difficult law to enforce, legal manufacturers were forced to close or convert to other uses. Once the ban was lifted in 1933, only four large Newark breweries were still in business, and only Krueger was able to restart production immediately.

Gottfried Krueger arrived from Germany as a teenager, and in the 1850s apprenticed at his uncle John Laible's brewery on Belmont Avenue. Krueger left Laible & Co. to partner with Gottlieb Hill, then bought Hill's share to become one of Newark's most prosperous beer producers. Krueger is remembered for the opulent mansion he built on High Street in 1888, which still bears his name.

[Mansion, left] Photo by Douglas Oxenhorn.

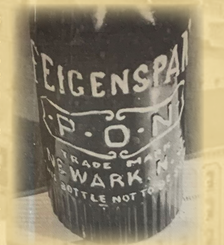


The highest concentrations of beer and ale producers in the 1860s and 1870s were near the intersection of Springfield Avenue and Belmont Avenue (today Irvine Turner Boulevard), and along the Ironbound's main thoroughfares of Market and Ferry Streets and Hamburg Place (today Wilson Avenue).

In 1945, Milwaukee-based Pabst purchased the Hoffman Brewing Company plant on South Orange Avenue, complete with its iconic bottle-shaped water tower. Standing for more than 70 years, the bottle recalled Newark's beer-making heritage until the brewery's demolition in 2006.

Christian Feigenspan was superintendent at the Laible & Co. brewery on Belmont Avenue, before purchasing it in 1875. He built a larger factory on Freeman Street in the Ironbound. Under Christian Feigenspan Jr., the famous "Pride of Newark" (P.O.N.) brand was introduced. Ballantine & Sons bought Feigenspan in 1944 and discontinued the line.

Star-Ledger (Newark, N.J.), 7 December 1988.



Anheuser-Busch opened its first satellite brewery outside St. Louis in 1951 near Newark Airport. A number of popular American brands are produced and packaged at this facility, the last large-production brewery remaining in New Jersey.

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The crucible that was Newark

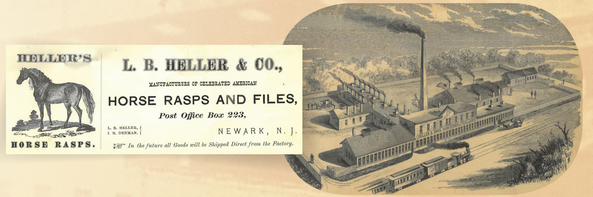
The fires blazed red-hot at Vesuvius Furnace, Newark's earliest known iron foundry, located just steps from the present site of the main library. In the 1700s, forges and furnaces proliferated, drawing on New Jersey's rich iron deposits to turn out nails, kettles, ovens, chimney backs—anything that required the bending and shaping of metal. The malleable iron technology introduced by Seth Boyden made Newark a flourishing center of metalworking, turning out brass and iron castings, saddlery hardware, and tools for every trade, from harness making to carpentry, jewelry to dressmaking.

The 1872 Exhibition overflowed with these products of Newark craftspeople. Henry Sauerbier & Son had almost 300 different tools on display for making leather and leather products. But what captivated visitors most of all was an extensive display in the north building of working machinery. Crowds stood mesmerized by these Newark-forged feats of engineering.

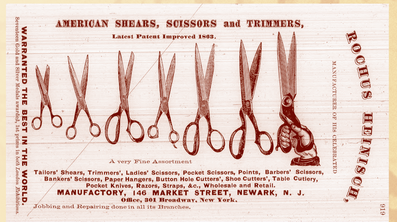
Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

Malleable and grey iron castings were specialties of David M. Meeker on Clay Street, where there was an active foundry for more than a century.

The Board of Trade of the City of Newark, N. J., *The Twenty-fifth Annual Report (1895)*.



Beginning in 1836, Elias Heller's factory for producing rasps and files developed into one of the largest manufacturers of its kind. Three of Heller's sons built a new tool works on New Jersey Railroad Avenue, then moved operations to a site along the Erie Railroad in north Newark, where they also constructed their own steel works.

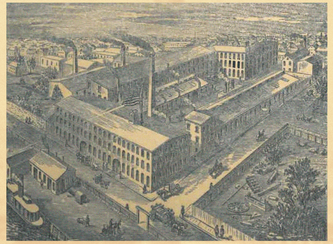


Competitors Rochus Heinisch (left) from Austria and Jacob Wiss (right) from Switzerland made high-quality scissors and shears for tailoring, barbering and household use. Both firms featured prominently at the 1872 Exhibition, and their products are still highly prized by collectors.

[Heinisch] *Holbrook's Newark City Directory, for the year ending April 1, 1871* (Newark, N.J. 1870), 919.

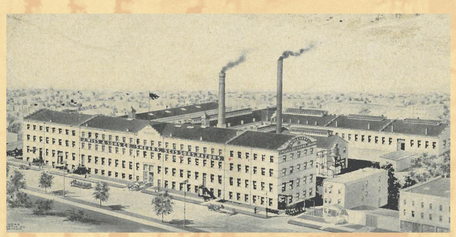
A manufacturer of mechanics' tools and hardware, William Johnson served on the Board of Managers of the 1872 Exhibition, where he displayed screwdrivers, gauges, levels and other products from his factory at the Hedenberg Works.

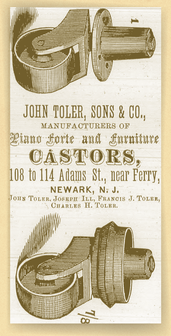
Newark (N.J.) *Sunday News*, 16 March 1952.



Joseph Hewes and John Phillips worked at Seth Boyden's iron foundry, then started their own works in the 1840s. Hewes & Phillips grew to be one of the largest machine shops in the country. The firm's lucrative Civil War contracts included engine parts and the turret mechanism of the ironclad ship *Monitor*. Engines, boilers and heavy iron and brass castings were all produced in its works at Orange and Ogden Streets.

Holbrook's Newark City Directory, for the year ending April 1, 1871 (Newark, N.J. 1870), 5.



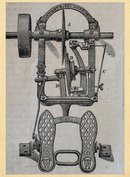


To move not just furniture but industrial materials and equipment easily and quickly, Newark metal workers produced casters to varying specifications and sizes. John Toler, Sons, started in 1844, became part of Universal Caster & Foundry Company on Ferry Street.

Holbrook's Newark City Directory, for the year ending April 1, 1871 (Newark, N.J. 1870), 906.

Steam engines were a favorite of the Exhibition, and none got more attention than the portable one invented by William Baxter. Demonstrators showed how the Baxter engine could power sewing machines, freeing garment workers almost entirely from the fatigue of working a foot treadle. A variable speed attachment, patented by L. Wright Machine Works on Alling Street, made this possible. Within a decade, close to ten thousand of the devices had been produced.

Newark (N.J.) *Daily Journal*, 28 August 1872; *Commerce, manufactures & resources, of Newark, N. J. A historical, statistical & descriptive review* (1881), 87.



Starting in the 1850s, the Passaic Machine Works (Watts, Campbell & Company) produced the steam engines that powered many other industries in Newark and beyond. Its disused factory building on McCarter Highway, still littered with historic machinery, is a rare relic of Newark's industrial past.

Jeremy Blakeslee, *Interior of Watts, Campbell*, 2010. CC BY-SA 3.0.

Wilbur B. Driver was a maker of precision metal and metal alloy products, including wires, ribbons and rods. The main plant in north Newark ceased operations in the 1980s, after a sixty-year run.

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

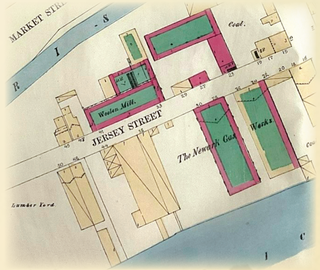
The City Electric

For all its muscle, Newark in 1872 slumbered on the brink of a new dawn. Gas lighting, which had helped make industrialization possible, was still king. Inside the Rink, hundreds of burners were switched on daily to illuminate gas fixtures and chandeliers exhibited below. Frank W. Ofeldt exhibited a safer gas machine with a brighter light, and there was even a cast-iron hearth with fake logs to conjure "the cheerful blaze of a wood fire."

The first Industrial Exhibition took scant notice of electricity, even though Newark physician William Mead was making use of electromagnetism 30 years earlier. Electricity's future was contingent on new inventions powered by it, and new machines to produce it abundantly and cheaply. Inventor Edward Weston, just 22 years old in 1872, and Thomas Edison, three years his senior, would usher this new world into being.

With electric power came dramatic changes in the workforce. Production by machines rather than human hands caused growth in factory jobs to level off. Women, earning less than their male counterparts, were employed by the thousands. Large corporations paid for, and profited by, easy access to electricity. As the city electric came alive, the forges and mills of 19th-century Newark began to grow dark.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

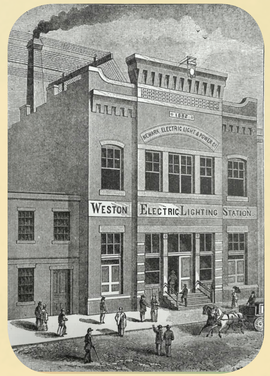


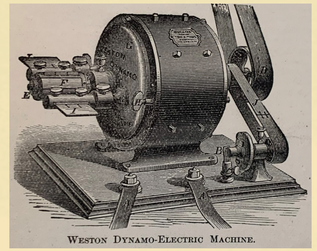
The Newark Gas Light works, between the Morris Canal and the Passaic River, began distributing gas through four miles of mains in early 1847. Gas lamps were lighting downtown streets by 1853.

Harrison Vanduyne & D. H. Sherman, *Fire Insurance Map of Newark, N. J.* (1868), plate xxxi.

The workers in this 1895 picture were employed by Essex & Hudson Gas on Market Street. It was one of four hundred gas, electric and trolley companies later merged into the Public Service Corporation, forerunner of today's Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G).

In 1870 Thomas Edison and William Unger established a stock printer company called Newark Telegraph Works. Before Edison became "The Wizard of Menlo Park," this building on Ward Street housed his first laboratory for the design and manufacture of electrical devices.



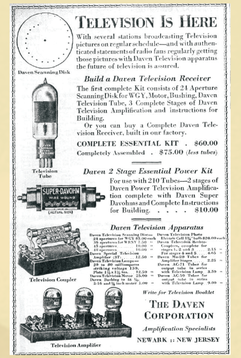


Weston Dynamo-Electric Machine.

The dynamos perfected by English-born Edward Weston made for more efficient electricity production. His arc lamps lighted the Newark Fire Department's downtown watchtower as well as the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1901, Weston Electrical Instruments moved to a sprawling complex on Frelinghuysen Avenue, where it made well-regarded light meters, voltmeters, motion sensors and navigation instruments.

[Dynamo] *Commerce, manufactures & resources, of Newark, N. J. A historical, statistical & descriptive review* (National Publishing Co. 1881), 97.

Transformers developed by George Westinghouse allowed high-voltage electricity to be transported over long distances, then converted to safe applications in factories and homes. The Westinghouse company became a leader in electronics for industrial and domestic use: fans, lamps, motors, toasters, irons, radios and many other products. Some of the first radio broadcasts, including coverage of the 1921 World Series, issued from here on station WJZ. Westinghouse gave work to thousands of women at its eight-building complex at Plane and Orange Streets.



Television in its infancy was a DIY affair. As early as 1928, the Daven Radio Corporation on Summit Street sold a basic kit for building one's own receiver. Those impatient to see occasional programming by a few local experimental stations could buy the device fully assembled at Bamberger's department store, on Market Street.

www.earlytelevision.org.

The electric city reshaped itself to meet the needs of large companies. Office workers began to outnumber factory hands. Multistory office towers replaced older, low-rise buildings, requiring more indoor lighting, more elevators, telegraphs and telephones, and more employees traveling on electrified trolley lines to and from their homes in greener, cleaner neighborhoods and suburbs.

Poisoned Legacy

To many Newarkers, belching factory smokestacks meant progress and prosperity. Coal dust, fuel spills and foul air were the cost of doing business, and pollution was only a problem if it interfered with economic growth.

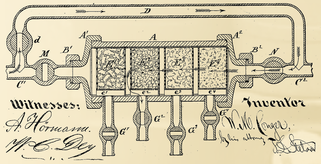
The Passaic River seemed the natural place to dump human, animal and industrial waste, so that by the end of the 19th century it was unfit for any other use. Deteriorating water quality caused outbreaks of cholera, dysentery and typhoid fever. The elevated death rate, especially for children, made Newark the nation's unhealthiest city.

For Newark's environment, worse was yet to come. Loss of key industries and suburban flight left the city poorer, and less able to defend itself from polluters. Beginning in the 1980s, investigators found the Passaic's banks and riverbed had become host to the world's deadliest known toxins. Today, Newark's 25 square miles include some of the country's most severely contaminated sites.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

This artist's view east along Market Street shows the proliferation of smokestacks that defined the Ironbound, Newark's most densely populated, most heavily industrialized quarter.

George A. Bradshaw, *The Workshop of the Metropolis, Ironbound District, Newark*, in *Journal of Industry & Finance* (April 1929), 6.

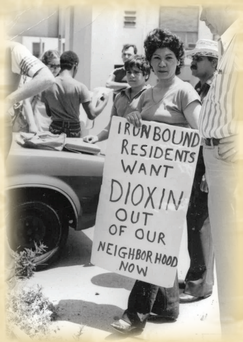


In 1872, Newarkers "curious to know what they drink" had a chance to see how polluted their water had become, as Walter M. Conger demonstrated a new filtering system at the Exhibition. Conger obtained a patent for the device the following year. Efforts to improve local water quality ended in failure, and by 1890 the Passaic was abandoned as a source, in favor of cleaner water from the New Jersey Highlands.

Specifications and drawings of patents issued from the United States Patent Office for March, 1873 (Washington 1873).

The health of the Passaic, the 80-mile-long main artery of a valuable ecosystem, has long been sacrificed to the populous, highly industrialized region around it. Over the years, hundreds of facilities discharged chemical and other waste into the river, rendering the lower Passaic and Newark Bay among the most polluted waterways on earth.

Len George, *Debris in Passaic River.*

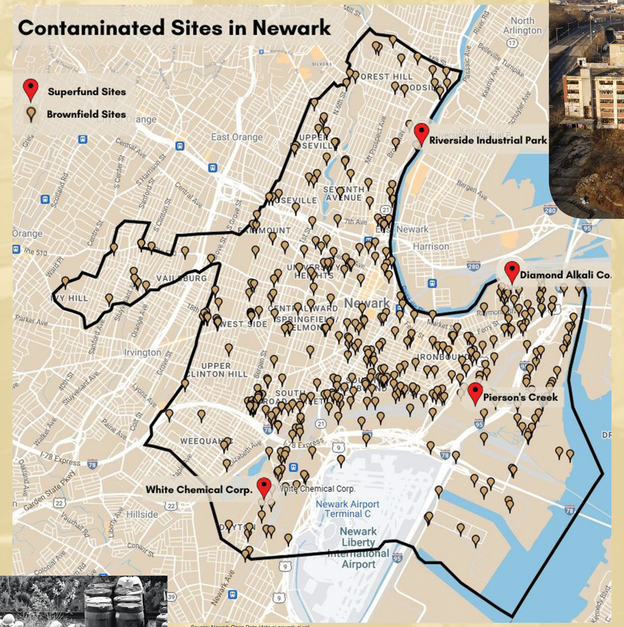


The Ironbound, historically a magnet for new immigrants, low-income residents and other disenfranchised populations, is the part of Newark most directly affected by industrial pollution. Since the 1970s, residents have mobilized to fight uncontrolled environmental damage, and to highlight the effects of chemical contamination, including alarming levels of dioxin, a highly toxic by-product of herbicide manufacturing and garbage incineration.

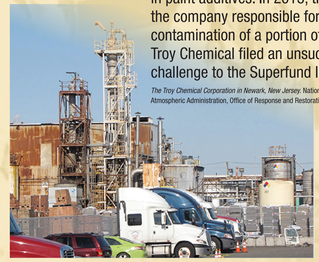
Nancy Zak and Arnold Cohen Collection.

In the 1980s, White Chemical Corporation produced acid chlorides, brominated organics and mineral acids at an industrial property on Frelinghuysen Avenue. Improper storage of hazardous substances led to the emergency removal of thousands of containers, and listing of the property as a Superfund site in 1991.

Pim Van Hemmen, from *The Star-Ledger* (Newark, N.J.), 19 October 1990.



Source: Newark Open Data (data.ci.newark.nj.us).



The latest Newark site placed on the Superfund National Priority List includes the still-active Troy Chemical Company, which specializes in paint additives. In 2013, the EPA held the company responsible for mercury contamination of a portion of Pierson's Creek. Troy Chemical filed an unsuccessful court challenge to the Superfund listing in 2020.

The Troy Chemical Corporation in Newark, New Jersey. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Response and Restoration.

Riverside Industrial Park in the North Ward was added to the Superfund National Priority List in 2013. A long history of paint, varnish and resin manufacturing on the site has left a range of contaminants, including lead, volatile organic compounds and PCBs.

Wheeler Antabanez, *Riverside Industrial Park on the Passaic River in Newark—2021*, from *Walking the Newark Branch—A photographic journey on the abandoned rails of New Jersey* (Abandoned Books 2021).

While industry continues to expand in parts of Newark, e-commerce and modernizing port facilities have propelled more heavy truck traffic to and through some of Newark's most environmentally degraded areas. Besides the harmful effects of diesel emissions, expanded warehousing facilities and parking lots mean more impervious surfaces, which increase stormwater runoff and flooding, and put residents and workers at greater risk.

Line to get in PNCT Terminal, retrieved 23 August 2022 from porttrucker.app.

End of the Line

Industry in 19th-century Newark continued to flourish, and the success of the first Exhibition was acknowledged even by its critics. Envisioned as an annual affair, it remained a Newark-only event for two more years, then opened its doors to all New Jersey industries in 1875.

As the 20th century dawned, however, Newark's bright future started to dim. In some ways, Newark would be the victim of its past success, as industrial jobs, when plentiful, encouraged workers to seek better than the city could offer. The business élite, giving up city homes for greener, healthier suburbs, cared less about urban conditions. The shift from a white to a Black majority was not reflected in a rebalancing of wealth or power.

After World War II, Newark grappled with the problems facing most cities: a shrinking economic base, anti-urban government policies and lending practices, inadequate housing and vanishing opportunities. Plant closings and layoffs created landscapes of desolation in once thriving neighborhoods. Industry—and America at large—had lost faith in its cities. In the eyes of many, all that Newark manufactured now was hopelessness.

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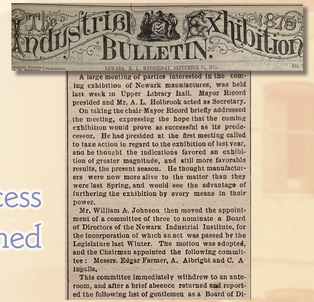


The Industrial Exhibition Bulletin

NEWARK, N. J., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1875. NO. 1.

A large meeting of parties interested in the coming exhibition of Newark manufactures, was held last week in Upper Library Hall. Mayor Ricord presided and Mr. A. L. Holbrook acted as Secretary.

On taking the chair Mayor Ricord briefly addressed the meeting, expressing the hope that the coming exhibition would prove as successful as its predecessor. He had presided at the first meeting called to take action in regard to the exhibition of last year, and he thought the indications favored an exhibition of greater magnitude, and still more favorable results, the present season. He thought manufacturers were now more alive to the matter than they were last Spring, and would see the advantage of furthering the exhibition by every means in their power.

Mr. William A. Johnson then moved the appointment of a committee of three to nominate a Board of Directors of the Newark Industrial Institute, for the incorporation of which an act was passed by the Legislature last Winter. The motion was adopted, and the Chairman appointed the following committee: Messrs. Edgar Farmer, A. Albright and C. A Ingalls.

This committee immediately withdrew to an anteroom, and after a brief absence returned and reported the following list of gentlemen as a Board of Di-

The Newark Industrial Institute was established late in 1872 to manage future annual exhibitions. Over the next three years, the events were larger, better organized and better publicized, but lacked the novelty of the original. A major depression beginning in 1873 didn't help. Large international expositions in Philadelphia and Chicago drew more attention and consumed more resources, and no further Newark-centered exhibitions took place in the nineteenth century.

The Sentinel of Freedom (Newark, N.J.), 20 May 1873. *The Industrial Exhibition Bulletin* (Newark, N.J.), 15 September 1875.

Beginning in 1912, the Board of Trade held a biannual series of exhibitions in the cavernous First Regiment Armory. A guidebook was printed in English, French and Spanish, listing all "Newark-Made Goods" and their makers. The exhibition of 1916 coincided with Newark's lavish 250th anniversary celebrations.

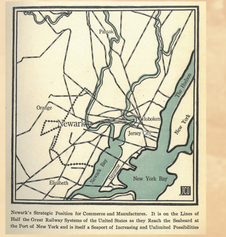
[1912 and 1914] Donald M. Karp Newark Miscellaneous Collection. [Armory] *Newark can—Newark will* (Newark, N.J. 1914).

The Great Migration from Southern states nearly quadrupled Newark's Black population between 1910 and 1930. While European immigrants generally found economic security and better living standards than those they had left behind, Black migrants were typically shut out of skilled jobs, labor unions and the possibility of accumulating wealth.

"No city in the world has a more brilliant future." A year after Newark mayor Thomas Raymond made that pronouncement, the Great Depression began. The collapse of financial institutions closed many city factories, and sent rates of unemployment, poverty and homelessness soaring. Job seekers are seen here outside the First Regiment Armory in 1933, hoping to find work under federal New Deal programs.

The Urban League in Newark traces its origins to a 1917 meeting of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey. It worked to expand employment opportunities, provide vocational training and combat job discrimination against minorities. In the 1930s, the Urban League offices were located on West Market Street.

New Jersey Writers' Project Photograph Collection, New Jersey State Archives.

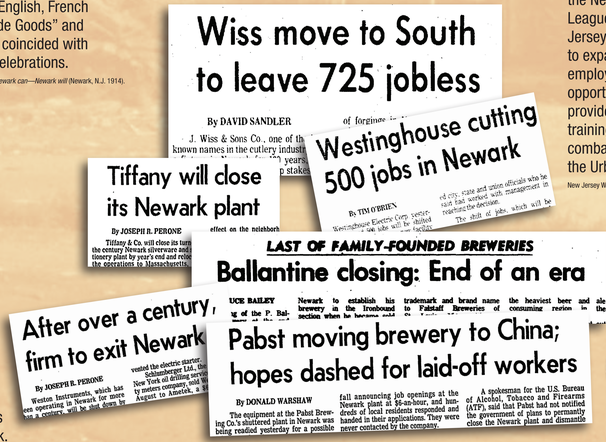


Newark's Strategic Position for Commerce and Manufactures. It is on the Lines of Half the Great Railway Systems of the United States as they Reach the Seaboard at the Port of New York and is itself a Seaport of Increasing and Unlimited Possibilities

With the new century came renewed efforts to promote local industry, championed by John Cotton Dana of the Newark Public Library. Believing a great library was crucial to "a great manufacturing city," Dana launched a business branch in 1904, the first of its kind. His "Made in Newark" catalog gathered information on every manufacturer in the city and every type of article produced.

The Newarker (Newark, N.J.) 1:1 (November 1911).

Early 20th-century business leaders staked Newark's well-being on continued promotion of the city's industrial potential. As part of a movement to instill order and dignity in urban spaces, a Permanent Industrial Exposition was planned across Broad Street from Lincoln Park. When this design proved unworkable, an office building rose in its place in 1926. It was converted in the 1970s to the senior apartments of Essex Plaza.



The shutdown or relocation of Newark industries accelerated after World War II. The causes of the exodus were many—among them automation, suburbanization, rising costs and declining profits—and so were the effects. Reduced employment and municipal tax revenue led to shrinking city budgets at a time of heightened need.

The Star-Ledger (Newark, N.J.): [Ballantine] 3 March 1972; [Westinghouse] 18 January 1978; [Wiss] 15 February 1978; [Tiffany] 25 September 1984; [Pabst] 16 January 1986; [Weston] 21 September 1989.

The wreckage left by rapid deindustrialization, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, could even conjure scenes of Newark's rural past.

William Kuntz, *Newark near Warren Street*, 1977.

MADE IN NEWARK
SHOWCASING THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Visions for a New Ark

With about 10,000 people employed in manufacturing, Newark remains a city of industry, but far less than in the past. More of its growing population finds work in the service sector: health care, education, construction, utilities, transportation and distribution.

Today, with the rest of the planet, the city faces a climate crisis that has already taken a toll on infrastructure, property, health and human life. As temperatures and sea levels rise, we recall the story of the Ark. It's an old tale, reflected in the name Newark's founders chose for their town.

From the first settlers to poet Amiri Baraka, Newarkers have found in the idea of the "New Ark" a symbol of salvation and redemption. But the Ark we build today must be a vessel of action, not a means of escape. It must carry us to a safer, saner way of living here on Earth. Newark, having led the way in the past, must do so once more.

Illustrations from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, unless otherwise stated.

In the 1980s, about a mile west of the city's downtown, Kea Tawana fashioned a giant wooden ark from the ruins of abandoned and demolished buildings. While her act of creation took on varied, even contradictory meanings, it was for many a symbol of hope in the midst of despair.

Camilo J. Vergara, *Bergen St. at 14th Ave., Kea Tawana's Ark, Newark, 1987.*
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Extreme weather has had devastating effects on the lives and livelihoods of Newarkers. The 2022 master plan urges the city to mitigate these impacts through an expanded tree canopy, increased green space, flood-resistant roadways and infrastructure, and wetland restoration.

John Jones for NJ Advance Media, Hurricane Ida flooding in Ironbound, 2 September 2021.

Newark360, the 2022 master plan, envisions more home-based industries, and even small-scale manufacturing, outside current commercial zones. The plan sees a hybrid use of buildings and neighborhoods as vital to a future that is healthy, equitable and resilient. Here we highlight four of the city's emerging and small-scale businesses.

Newark Tomorrow. Aerial rendering from WRT, *Newark360. Shaping our city together* (September 2022) 190–191.

Shoes, a signature product of Newark's past, are still made in the city. Ghanaian-born Joe Adade, who acquired his skills in Germany, has been making and repairing shoes on Halsey Street since 2001.

Photograph by Melissa Marie Johnson.

A maker of premium kitchen cabinets, Fabuwood opened a new production facility along the Passaic River in 2018. It employs over 800 people.

Fabuwood Cabinetry Corp.

AeroFarms grows millions of pounds of leafy greens annually without soil, sunlight or pesticides, in a multi-story building in Newark's east end, helping to address issues of water scarcity, arable land loss and food insecurity.

AeroFarms.

Architect-turned-distiller Gil Spaier founded All Points West Distillery in the Ironbound in 2017. This local producer of small-batch liquor hearkens back to the immigrant roots of Newark's former preeminence in the beverage industry.

Photograph by Melissa Marie Johnson.